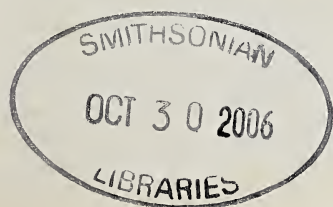


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Bulletin of the

Day
American Iris Society



Number 239 ☐ October 1980

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

A nonprofit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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Photo Credits

R. Bohrer—p. 29, all; **J. Boushay**—7, lower rt.; **H. Briscoe**—7, lower left; **H. Danielson**—9, both rt.; **A. Dasch**—5 mid & lower; **R. Dasch**—8, top 3 & low rt.; **F. Gaulter**—36; **M. Hamblen**—7 top rt. & 10 both; **J. Martin**—32; **Melrose Gardens**—9 top left; **C. McEwen**—8 lower left & 14 left; **D. Niswonger**—14 rt.; **J. Scharff**—30 all; **D. Sindt**—7 top left; **Summerville N.C. Journal**—71; **L. Welsh**—15; **B. Williamson**—5 top; **Jos. Witt**—45.

Advertisers

AIS Pin	2	Advertising Rates	96
Schultz	77, 78	Melrose Gardens	Back Cover
Commercial Director	90-96		

Cover: The brilliance of autumn appears in our October cover subject, the spuria iris variety IMPERIAL BRONZE. Created by Eleanor McCown and introduced in 1971, it won the Eric Nies Award in 1975. Photo by Philip Edinger.



From the Desk of the President

Leon Wolford

This is the last report I will make as President, and it would seem a review of the past three years would be in order. However, the allotted space for the Presidents Message could not possibly contain all I would like to say concerning my personal gratitude to the membership for their loyal support of the Society, the Officers and the Directors.

The Society has experienced a steady growth through the efforts of a number of dedicated members. Some of these members have done a phenomenal amount of work. The Membership Secretary, Ron Mullin, reports that the membership passed the 6,100 mark in July of this year. This is the highest point in a number of years. We have momentum—let's keep it going!

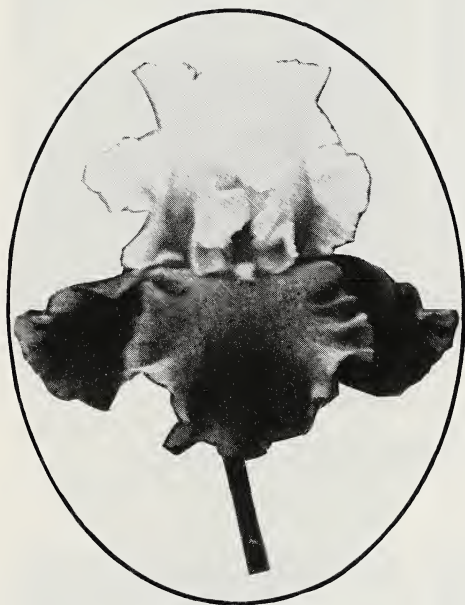
At this time we are inclined to look back further than our three years in this office, even to include our entire iris life. There is no doubt that these years have brought us more pleasure than any years in our lifetime. We have enjoyed the aesthetics of our favorite flower, whose beauty increases from year to year. But perhaps even more important, we have had the privilege of associating with some of the world's finest people. And with greatest pleasure we have become members of the family of irisarians. No words can express the joy and satisfaction that is derived from this association. This family continues to grow from year to year, and the quality of its members continues to improve! What more could one ask!

To all of those who served in any leadership capacity during my term, I say thank you and I shall always think of you as a member of the team. I will be forever grateful to you. To the members who were not called on to lead, but were there with their support of the Society and its aims, I am

Con't. on page 21

1980 AIS AWARDS

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL



WINNER

MYSTIQUE (J. Ghio)
126 votes (17.6 %)

RUNNERSUP

BROWN LASSO (Buckles-D. Niswonger)
114 votes (16.1 %)



QUEEN OF HEARTS (O. Brown)
34 votes

SPECIAL AWARDS & MEDALS

votes

KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

- 419 BROWN LASSO
(Buckles-D. Niswonger)
RUNNERSUP
- 49 WHOOP 'EM UP (D. Brady)
- 30 PINK SWIRL (C. Wedow)

SASS MEDAL (IB)

- 93 APPLEBLOSSOM PINK
(J. Boushay)
RUNNERSUP
- 76 CHEERS (B. Hager)
- 61 GAY WINGS (O. Brown)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

- 98 MRS. NATE RUDOLPH
(H. Briscoe)
RUNNERSUP
- 79 DEMON (Hager)
- 65 MELON HONEY (E. Roberts)

CAPARNE AWARD (MDB)

- 45 NUGGETS (D. Sindt)
RUNNERSUP
- 37 PENNY CANDY (M. Hamblen)
- 22 GARNET ELF (M. Hamblen)

WILLIAMSON-WHITE AWARD (MTB)

- 68 PANDA (M. L. Dunderman)
RUNNERSUP
- 26 SPANISH COINS (J. Witt)
- 18 LITTLE BLUEBEARD (K. Vaughn)

MITCHELL AWARD (CA)

- 35 SOQUEL COVE (J. Ghio)
RUNNERSUP
- 11 RESTLESS NATIVE (J. Ghio)
- 9 COUNCILMAN (J. Ghio)

votes

C. G. WHITE AWARD (AR)

- 40 SHEIK (B. Hager)
RUNNERSUP
- 37 BIONIC BURST (H. Danielson)
- 25 GENETIC MOMENT
(H. Danielson)

MOHR AWARD

- 105 GENETIC BURST (H. Danielson)
RUNNERSUP
- 33 BYZANTINE BEAUTY
(H. Nichols)
- 27 ARIL LADY (H. Danielson)

PAYNE AWARD (JA)

- 25 PURPLE PARASOL (C. McEwen)
RUNNERSUP
- 18 PRAIRIE CHIEF (A. Hazzard)
- 17 FUJI (T. Abell)

DEBAILLON AWARD

- 150 ANN CHOWNING (F. Chowning)
RUNNERSUP
- 32 SHRIMP CREOLE (J. Ghio)
- 19 BRYCE LEIGH (F. Chowning)

MORGAN AWARD (SIB)

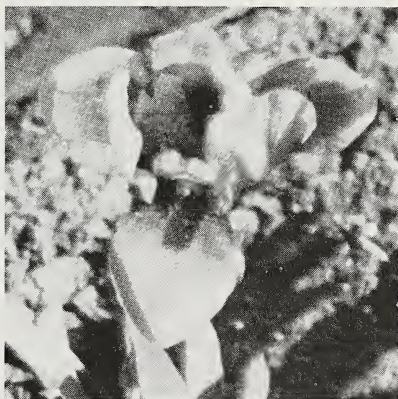
- 43 RUFFLED VELVET (C. McEwen)
RUNNERSUP
- 42 SAVOIR FAIRE (S. Dubose)
- 30 BUTTER AND SUGAR
(C. McEwen)
- 30 MARANATHA (S. Varner)

NIES AWARD (SPU)

- 41 BUTTERED CHOCOLATE
(D. Niswonger)
RUNNERSUP
- 33 IMPERIAL RUBY (E. McCown)
- 32 FAR OUT (B. Hager)



**CAPARNE AWARD MINIATURE
DWARF BEARDEDS:** *NUGGETS* (left)
and *PENNY CANDY* (below), runnerup.



DWARF AND MEDIAN WINNERS



(Above) *MRS. NATE RUDOLPH*, standard
dwarf bearded Cook-Douglas Medalist and (right),
APPLEBLOSSOM PINK, intermediate bearded
Sass Medalist.



BEARDLESS WINNERS

LOUISIANAS—Left, ANN CHOWNING; below, SHRIMP CREOLE
and BRYCE LEIGH (bottom)



SIBERIANS—Left,
RUFFLED VELVET;
below, SAVOIR FAIRE



ARIL AND ARILBRED WINNERS



Above, SHEIK, winner of the C.G. White Award, and runnerup BIONIC BURST. Lower right, GENETIC BURST, Mohr Award Winner.



REQUEST FROM AN ADVERTISER

Anyone who ordered from the Paolucci-Conningham ad, page 87 of the July 80 BULLETIN, and whose order has not been confirmed or filled, is requested to contact Jane Barton Conningham, Walnut Tree Hill, Sandy Hook, CT 06482. Records may be in disorder due to the tragic death of Lorenzo Paolucci in a sailing accident. Ms. Conningham wishes to straighten out the orders received by her partner.

WALTHER CUP

(Highest Number of HM Votes in all Categories)



(BB) GYPSY WINGS (M. Hamblen) 150 votes



RUNNERSUP

**(TB) CHRISTMAS RUBIES (M. Hamblen)
149 votes**

(TB) SAN JOSE (J. Ghio) 143 votes

AWARD OF MERIT (TB)

votes

- 178 ENTOURAGE (J. Ghio)
- 131 FLAMENCO (K. Keppel)
- 116 VICTORIA FALLS (Schreiner's)
- 109 GENTLE RAIN (K. Keppel)
- 109 TEMPLE GOLD (W. Luihn)
- 91 COFFEE HOUSE (J. Ghio)
- 87 ORANGE EMPIRE (B. Hamner)
- 82 ACTRESS (K. Keppel)
- 82 SUN KING (J. Stahly)
- 79 CHERISHED (G. Corlew)

- 79 PENNY A PINCH
(W. Steinhauer)
- 79 PLAYGIRL (J. Gatty)
- 79 MICHIGAN PRIDE (T. Berndt)
- RUNNERSUP
- 77 LAWRENCE WELK (H. Danielson)
- 75 MANDOLIN (J. Ghio)
- 74 KENTUCKY DERBY (D. Mohr)
- 70 DEEP PACIFIC (E. Burger)
- 68 CHARISMA (C. Blocher)
- 68 INTUITION (J. Ghio)
- 65 SILENT MAJESTY (M. Hamblen)

AWARD OF MERIT (BB)

votes

- 203 PICAYUNE (K. Keppel)
- 194 AM I BLUE (D. Denney)
- 59 SIENNA STAR (M. Hamblen)
- RUNNERSUP
- 53 SCUPPERNONG ROSE
(A. Hickerson)
- 52 PINK LOLLIPOP (J. Marsh)
- 49 POCKET SIZE (G. Plough)

AWARD OF MERIT (IB)

votes

- 173 PINK KITTEN (V. Wood)
- 124 SHAMPOO (V. Messick)
- 70 RIKKI TIKI (M. Rogers)
- RUNNERSUP
- 64 RASPBERRY BONNET
(M. Hamblen)
- 62 BOY WONDER (J. Ghio)
- 47 SNOW FESTIVAL (C. Palmer)

AWARD OF MERIT (SDB)

votes

- 60 ABRACADABRA (B. Hager)
- 54 BETSY BOO (B. Warburton)
- 49 CLAP HANDS (B. Hager)
- RUNNERSUP
- 47 FORTY WINKS (S. Moldovan)
- 43 SOFT AIR (B. Warburton)
- 41 QUEEN'S PAWN (B. Jones)

HONORABLE MENTION (BB)

votes

- 150 GYPSY WINGS (M. Hamblen)
- 142 MARMALADE SKIES
(D. Niswonger)
- 101 SOMETHING SPECIAL (B. Hager)
- 92 HAPPY SONG (M. Hamblen)
- 59 PEACH FESTIVAL (R. Blodgett)
- 42 BUFFY'S BABY (C. Wedow)
- 25 CORONADO HALL (H. Nichols)
- 22 WESTBAY (L. O'Brien)
- 19 FAIRY CLOUD (O. Brown)

HONORABLE MENTION (IB)

votes

- 88 MARTY (W. Jones)
- 82 FROSTED CRYSTAL (J. Gatty)
- 74 CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
(H. Nichols)
- 69 LOVER BOY (J. Ghio)
- 36 SAINT TERESA (H. Nichols)
- 33 HELEN PROCTOR (H. Briscoe)
- 31 PONY (B. Hager)
- 30 ALTA'S CHOICE (F. Judy)
- 27 PERKY PLIK (J. Weiler)
- 21 SEA SONG (H. Nichols)
- 18 SPRING WINE (W. Peck)
- 17 CHATTERBOX (Schreiner's)
- 16 LITTLE IDOL (G. Plough)
- 15 PIONEER SPIRIT (H. Nichols)
- 15 TRULY NICE (H. Nichols)

HONORABLE MENTION (MTB)

votes

- 44 ZIPPY CHERUB (D. Guild)
- 42 CONSUMATION (W. Welch)
- 42 DOLL RIBBON (M. Dunderman)
- 27 DISCO JEWEL (D. Guild)
- 24 JOETTE (F. Williams)
- 17 AGATE PASS (J. Witt)
- 14 SANDINO (D. Guild)
- 12 AIMEE (D. Guild)
- 12 DIMITY JANE (D. Guild)

HONORABLE MENTION (MDB)

votes

- 50 BRASS BUTTON (H. Briscoe)
- 42 SNOW SPARKLE (D. Sindt)
- 41 BABY BLUE EYES (J. Boushay)
- 35 PINTO PONY (A. & D. Willott)
- 28 IRISH BABY (D. Rawdon)
- 23 PLIC SAND (S. Dalgard)
- 21 BABY BLUE SPOT (D. Rawdon)
- 17 MICHIANA (F. Williams)
- 15 MIDDLEBURY (W. Welch)

HONORABLE MENTION (SDB)

votes

- 127 BRASS TACKS (K. Keppel)
- 93 SAPPHIRE JEWEL (M. Hamblen)
- 88 JOYFUL (J. Gatty)
- 66 LITTLE BILL (W. Jones)
- 49 DIXIE PIXIE (B. Jones)
- 37 HELTER SKELTER (P. Dyer)
- 27 JACK RILEY (H. Briscoe)
- 24 DWIGHT JOHN (M. Wolff)
- 22 SNOW PIXIE (R. Blodgett)
- 19 BAYBERRY MIST
(A. & D. Willott)
- 17 GENTLE AIR (B. Warburton)
- 17 SPRING BUTTERFLY (E. Hobbs)
- 16 FORTUNE COOKIE (Schreiner's)
- 16 GYPSY BAY (R. Blodgett)
- 15 CARESS (A. Brown)
- 15 SPANGLES (B. Hager)

HONORABLE MENTION (AR)

votes

- 66 MARY OF MAGDALA (E. Hunt)
- 58 NEHEMIAH (M. Rogers)
- 52 FAIRY ARTISTRY (C. Palmer)
- 25 SNOW OVER CHICAGO
(H. Danielson)
- 20 RUBIDOUX (H. Tate)
- 19 BLACK DAZZLER (H. Danielson)
- 18 CALYPSO CLOWN (L. Rich)
- 18 JEWELLED VEIL (L. Rich)
- 17 VEILED INTRUDER (L. Rich)
- 13 ARIL LANDMARK (H. Danielson)
- 11 TURKISH DELIGHT (L. Austin)
- 10 TRAFFIC JAMMER (J. Holden)
- 10 TURKISH TOPAZ (L. Austin)

HONORABLE MENTION (AB)

votes

- 58 SIZZLE (F. Gadd)
- 26 FOR PLEASURE (H. Danielson)
- 23 BUZZ FUZZ (F. Gadd)
- 23 DOLL FOOT (L. Bellagamba)
- 17 JESSABOO (F. Gadd)
- 12 SHEPAUG RIVER (F. Gadd)

HONORABLE MENTION (SPU)

votes

- 87 HIGHLINE HONEY (E. McCown)
- 87 IMPERIAL GOLD (E. McCown)
- 37 BLUE LASSIE (D. Niswonger)
- 37 WREN'S NEST (M. Walker)
- 27 ROYAL BELISE (E. McCown)
- 22 STRUTTIN' (D. Niswonger)
- 19 ETHIC (J. Ghio)
- 13 AIRY FANCY (B. Hager)
- 13 EQUALITY (J. Ghio)

HONORABLE MENTION (SIB)

votes

- 125 STEVE VARNER (H. Briscoe)
- 115 ANN DASCH (S. Varner)
- 48 SPARKLE (B. Hager)
- 44 TURQUOISE BEAUTY
(B. Tollman)
- 33 STAR CLUSTER (B. Hager)
- 26 FRIENDLY WELCOME (S. Varner)
- 22 MAGGIE LEE (L. Bellagamba)
- 18 SMOOTH SEAS (B. Tolman)
- 16 REDDY MAID (C. McEwen)

HONORABLE MENTION (CA)

votes

- 41 CITY HALL (J. Ghio)
- 26 CASA PACIFICA (J. Ghio)
- 23 JOEY (J. Gatty)
- 20 LA SELVA (J. Ghio)
- 11 ROVING EYE (G. Stamback)
- 10 CALIFORNIA YANKEE
(J. McGaskill)
- 10 PAPER BOY (G. Stamback)

HONORABLE MENTION (JAP)

votes

- 22 PEACOCK STRUT (S. Hirao)
- 15 PRAIRIE BLUERIBBON
(A. Hazzard)
- 14 MIDNIGHT LAGOON (L. Rich)
- 13 PRAIRIE BLISS (A. Hazzard)
- 13 SIMPLE ELEGANCE (C. McEwen)
- 12 EXTRAVAGANT PLUMES
(F. Maddocks)
- 10 PRAIRIE COQUETTE (A. Hazzard)

HONORABLE MENTION (LA)

votes

- 80 CLARA GOULA (C. Army Jr.)
- 54 MISS ARKANSAS (F. Chowning)
- 40 MONUMENT (M. Dunn)
- 39 FULL ECLIPSE (B. Hager)
- 34 OATH (J. Ghio)
- 18 ROSY MOON (E. McCown)
- 16 CREOLE CANARY (M. Granger)
- 14 ANDY DANDY (C. Army Jr.)
- 13 CHARJOY'S ANNE (C. Army Jr.)
- 13 CHARJOY'S JAN (C. Army Jr.)
- 12 BAYOU SHADOW (C. Army Jr.)
- 12 CHARJOY'S MIKE (C. Army Jr.)
- 12 PINK FROLIC (M. Granger)
- 10 YELLOW WEB (C. Army Jr.)

HONORABLE MENTION (TB)

votes

- 149 CHRISTMAS RUBIES
(M. Hamblen)
- 143 SAN JOSE (J. Ghio)
- 132 FLAREUP (J. Ghio)
- 122 GRAPHIC ARTS (B. Hager)
- 113 GOLD GALORE (Schreiner)
- 106 FRESNO CALYPSO (J. Weiler)
- 106 THICK AND CREAMY (J. Weiler)
- 104 SANTANA (K. Keppel)
- 101 HOMECOMING QUEEN
(N. Sexton)
- 101 PATINA (K. Keppel)
- 100 TEQUILA SUNRISE (J. McWhirter)
- 78 BARBARY COAST (J. McWhirter)
- 77 LEMON LYRIC (D. Meek)
- 76 BLAZING SADDLES (P. Dyer)
- 76 SUNDAY CHIMES (M. Hamblen)
- 74 BAY RUM (B. Brown)
- 72 CUT CRYSTAL (N. Rudolph)
- 72 NAVAJO BLANKET (Schreiner's)
- 71 GLORY BOUND (R. Nelson)
- 71 MAGNIFIQUE (J. Ghio)
- 70 SOUTHLAND GRAPE (J. Burch)
- 67 SPACE ODYSSEY (B. Hager)
- 66 GRANDMA'S TRIMDRESS
(D. Niswonger)
- 65 BRIDE'S LACE (O. Julander)

HONORABLE MENTION (TB)

cont'd.

votes

- 58 DREAM AFFAIR (J. Gatty)
- 58 MULBERRY MIST (J. Burch)
- 56 BALLET RUFFLES (N. Rudolph)
- 56 CHERRY SMOKE (D. Meek)
- 56 METROPOLITAN (R. Nelson)
- 56 SWAZI PRINCESS (Schreiner's)
- 53 WILD BERRY (B. Hamner)
- 52 ADMIRALTY (L. Hooker)
- 51 PEACH SUNDAE (B. Hamner)
- 49 PANACHE (J. Gatty)
- 49 PREMONITION (J. Ghio)
- 48 MISTY MOONSCAPE (B. Roe)
- 47 HEAVENLY HARMONY
(M. Hamblen)
- 46 GYPSY CARAVAN (S. Moldovan)
- 46 SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS
(L. Zurbrigg)
- 45 CHIEF WAUKESHA (A. Blodgett)
- 45 LOUISIANA LACE (Schreiner's)
- 44 AMERICAN HERITAGE
(B. Williamson)
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WINNERS: Left, *PURPLE PARASOL*, Japanese winner of the Payne Award and, right, *BUTTERED CHOCOLATE*, winner of the Nies Award for spurias.

A winning hybridizer with a winning personality...

A SALUTE TO JOSEPH GHIO!

This year's Dykes Medallist MYSTIQUE was created by Joseph Ghio, winner of numerous other awards mentioned in this and other issues. When notified that he had won the Dykes Medal, Joe was watching the Republican Convention on television "The only call that would have been more exciting," he told Leon Wolford, "would have been a call from Reagan that he was looking for a real dark horse vice-presidential candidate!"

A native of Santa Cruz, California, where he has taught high school business and social studies for 19 years, Joe is currently serving his second term as mayor of the popular Pacific Ocean resort town. He is only the fourth of 54 mayors to be elected for a second term.

Joe is from a family that loved to grow things. As a youngster, he saw a magazine ad for a \$5 collection of irises; he was astounded by the color range. He cut lawns to earn the money. This order came accompanied by a Schreiners' color catalog, and Joe reordered the same summer.

"On their first bloom in 1954, I crossed everything with everything else. I was just in high school at the time," he explained. "MYSTIQUE is particularly interesting, since it is the culmination of a long line tracing to the base, FROSTED STARLIGHT, a cross made in my third year of hybridizing."

The Californian, owner of Bayview Gardens, reminisced, "Now in my 27th year of hybridizing, I made a record 405 crosses, some having several pods. This is all types of irises, with most crosses involving TBs or the Pacificas."

"In the future," he continued, "we should have all sorts of toasted melon tones, watermelon reds and garnets. In Pacificas, plicatas, amoenas, blacks and browns are on the way."



GIFTS TO THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

January 1, 1980 to June 30, 1980

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Southwestern Michigan Iris Soc.

Joe Askins

Huntsville Chapter AIS (AL)

Frances McCollough

El Paso Iris Society (TX)

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Raymond and Lucille Miller

(TN)

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Raymond and Lucille Miller

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Jake Scharff

Raymond and Lucille Miller

OTHER GIFTS:

Walter Carlock (MN)

Robert Demory (TX)

Dorothy Howard (OK)

***Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan**
(MI)

***Bill Johnson** (KS)

*Special Purpose Gift

Word has been received that Lowell F. Randolph,
former AIS President, passed away this year.

A full obituary will be forthcoming.

HYBRIDIZING INTERMEDIATES ?

Carol Lankow, WA

Great progress has been made in median breeding in the last couple of decades. A lot of people succumb sooner or later to the itch to create something in irises that doesn't exist at the moment. Re-reading THE MEDIANITE inspires all sorts of intriguing ideas for possible hybridizing projects, along with an interesting history of the development of the medians.

Because of the in-between bloom season, the intermediates have been rather like step children. It is a pity! Many miss seeing some especially useful garden plants and some real charmers. The IBs fill a gap in the progression of spring bloom, are of a size to fit nicely into smaller gardens, tend to be good growers and reliable bloomers and can stand unstaked in breezy locations.

However, an assignment to discuss breeding programs for IBs can only bring on a fit of giggles. For all practical purposes, there is no such thing. Perhaps it is more realistic to talk about breeding programs *using* the IBs because I suspect that most IB introductions are by-products designed to accomplish other goals. But I love the class and have acquired some notions that I am happy to share...

STARTING IN THE MIDDLE...

For starters, you need to remember that the median classifications are based on garden use, and not genetics, so that two irises of similar breeding can be in two different classes. Please remember that there are exception to *everything* that can be said about bearded irises.

Hybridizing for IBs can be pure frustration. There are all kinds of genetic things at work that others can explain better than I. Most modern IBs are the 44 chromosome result of crossing 40 chromosome standard dwarf bearded back to the 48 chromosome tall. The first such crosses were made "to see what happens". Some exciting irises happened, but, unfortunately they are quite infertile, especially among themselves, so that each cross is pretty much of a dead end.

Still, the conventional crosses are worth pursuing. Improvements come as the direct result of the improving quality of the SDBs and TBs. The key in this work is careful selection of parents. We want "modern" looking flowers with width and substance that are displayed on well propor-

tioned stems and plants. The 40 chromosome SDBs are derived from pumila dwarfs which do a fine job of reducing flower size and height (and branching and bud count), but do not seem as effective in reducing the size of the leaves. You need the very best SDBs, and you need to be very discriminating in your choice of 48 chromosome parents.

The emphasis on size in TB hybridizing produces gorgeous plants that are heavier in all their parts than is ideal for median parents. 48 chromosome border beardededs can be an answer, but I find too many of the resulting seedlings a bit smaller than I really like. Be on the lookout for "short tall" of quality with proportions that are pleasing! I have had especially nice seedlings from RUFFLED CHERUB, SALUTATION, and SAND AND SEA. ADMIRALTY, SPRING BRIDE ACTRESS, MERRY TUNE, and PRINCESS are among others that seem to be good candidates.

I have a hunch that proportion in the TB parent is more important than size. I remember a couple of crosses I bloomed some time back from APROPOS. That iris could get really big, but the relationship of flower, stalk, and plant was beautiful, and the resulting IBs had fine size and proportion.

As a rule of thumb, earlier blooming TBs produce offsprings more likely to bloom in the IB season. Later blooming offspring are 44 chromosome borders. Not at all a bad thing—just not IBs! The awards that Joe Gatty's IBs are winning are ample proof that thoughtful parent selection continues to give quality IBs.

IN AND OUT OF LINE ...

As for line breeding, I can't help thinking that the day will come when we do it. The 44 chromosome IBs are cranky pod parents that give few seeds and generally poor germination. However, the biggest difficulty seems to be infertile pollen. The tease is that many are loaded with lovely fluffy pollen that looks just great. We have some IBs that are at least somewhat pollen fertile, and, if we have some, we should get more. When we have enough with the qualities we like, we should be able to have some fun "seeing what happens". It seems logical that the odds of producing them would be increased with the use of two parents that are pollen fertile. APPLEBLOSSOM PINK, PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER, KERI, LILLIPINKPUT (very infrequently), PINK PRIDE, RED TEMPEST, and TUM-WATER are some that I know are at least partially pollen fertile.

Another approach is to investigate species other than pumila. Ben Hager is doing that with outstanding results in his quest for tetra miniature tall beardededs and for dwarfs that do well in areas of the coun-

try not favored by pumilas. APHYLLA has been much used, and there are many hybrids on the market of good quality. MAROON CAPER, ANIKINS, SVELTE, and STARCHILD are among the better known.

Joe Ghio's BALKANA derivatives have great vigor and bud count, and MELITA and REICHENBACHII have given fascinating color breaks in irises of all size. The obvious advantage is that these are 48 chromosome and automatically increase fertility. It turns out that it is easier to break away from the typical dark violet APHYLLA color that was first supposed. I have found that quarter APHYLLA seedlings can be very fertile and can be of high quality. SOUNDER is a nice border iris in itself and is the parent of some very modern looking BBs and IBs. A real challenge for someone is the pretty magenta rose color that crops up in APHYLLA hybrids. So far it always seems associated with old fashioned form and thin substance, but whoever breaks that linkage will have flowers with dynamite carrying power and great garden value.

REICHENBACHII is behind many medians, mostly through PROGENITOR. WHOLE CLOTH and MELODRAMA are in many medians pedigrees. Steve Moldovan used them with pinks to create IBs with some of the prettiest colors you will ever see. Earl Roberts' ELFIN series are from the PROGENITOR line. The BALKANA introductions have been mostly BBs, but they certainly have a place in IB breeding.

PLANT PARENTHOOD...

When you consider IBs *in* breeding programs, you enter an area of endless fascination. When trying to transfer characteristics found in either dwarfs or tall to the other group, intermediates are the obvious intermediate result—the necessary transition phase.

We have pink SDBs after years of effort, but improvements are slow in coming since they are almost all descended from the same sources. To achieve the width, substance, and color clarity of the tall, we use the tall. SWEETIE and APPLEBLOSSOM PINK are IB parents of pink SDBs.

Some want lacy SDBs. It's questionable how much lace a flower that small can carry before it becomes a blob. A little lace can be very attractive on an IB.

There are some outstanding IB plicatas and their use can only improve the SDBs in the pattern. Nothing could hurt much.

Remontant IBs abound, if you are looking for rebloomers.

SDBs tend to decrease in size after several generations of intercrossing. A little shot of tall through the IBs can help bring up the size again. Now

and then you run across an IB from and IB x SDB cross, but they tend to be borderline in size and season.

C. Lankow 6-80

In the other direction, we have the endless search for the recipe that will put the PUMILA spot onto the tall. When I see all those TBs with white falls banded the color of the standards, I feel that I am looking at places waiting for spots to happen. There are IBs with authentic spots.

For some reason, many are trying to create in the tall the blue bearded yellow combination so common in the SDBs. Gordon Plough has been working that problem for years. So far the end product has been a nice collection of blue bearded IBs—many of them yellow. He says a fair number of these have fertile pollen too. It's just a matter of time, but if you jump in with both feet, you may beat him to it. I like my yellows with yellow, orange, or red beards, but what do I know?

PLAYFUL IDEAS...

I've been fooling around for years with a formula of Paul Cook's that states the $(PUMILA \times TB) \times (APHYLLA \times TB) = MTB$ type plants. The important word turns out to be "type". They are IBs, of course, and pumila shoots heck out of the branching. But some of them measure MTB and a few are kind of pretty. I am looking forward to playing around with them and Hager's new tetra MTBs. Jack Boushay has a really nice brown MTB from NEW IDEA x JOLLY FELLOW—early blooming, but well branched and budded. I'll throw that into the pot too. We are not going to have rapid improvement in the MTBs until we get them off the diploid level, and IBs should have a place in the effort.

My pet project has always been border bearded. They are aggravating because they either grow way up after they are introduced, or they don't grow at all. IBs appear to be a logical tool to stabilize the size and soup up the vigor. It has been tried often over the years, but since I don't know a better way, I keep trying.

Melba Hamblen has introduced a trio—GYPSY WINGS, HAPPY SONG, and BUTTER GIRL—that are from LITTLE SWINGER x (MISTY DAWN x DOVE WINGS). The two I have seen appear to be decent growers and have nice size and lovely stalks. The classy black IB, HELEN PROCTOR, is from IB LOU BROCK x SABLE ROBE. Again, the only difference is the season.

A cross of ANDI x a short TB seedling gave a couple that are short on branches, but they grow so fast it is embarrassing. When we moved into

this house, I stuck three rhizomes of ANDI by our front walk. Then we left town for a year. When we got back, I cleaned the clump a bit and I gave it a light feeding. That is all the attention it had. This spring the clump is well over wash tub size and was in bloom for well over a month. The show really thrilled daughter ANDI when she saw her namesake for the first time. Wish I knew of more than a half dozen or so BBs that would grow like that.

Have I piqued your curiosity and whetted your appetite? Sure hope so! We all have a little list of iris pets that become personal friends we look forward to seeing each spring. I was surprised when I realized how many on my list were intermediates. There are some great little personalities among them. If nothing else, grow some for show insurance for those years when the season is late and you can't change your show dates. I can't imagine a class that offers more fun and surprises for the gardener and the hybridizer.

From the President's Desk cont'd.

grateful to you, also. Without you, whom some might call the ordinary members, there would be no Society. You are the bedrock of our group and we need and appreciate every one of you.

From time to time, I have pointed out special accomplishments of individuals who have done exceptional work for the Society. However, most of you have continued to do exceptional work without any thought of recognition or even reimbursement for your AIS expenses. Although I could not begin to list those names here, I am very aware of your work and I know that the other members of the Society are also.

One final tribute to a person who has been a good right arm for these past three years. Many years ago before she assumed her present duties, I made this statement: "Carol, it was a lucky day for AIS when you joined us!" I am more convinced than ever that I was correct when I made that statement about Carol Ramsey. Her AIS knowledge and her enthusiastic use of that knowledge is one of our Society's really great assets.

This final message as President is not to imply that I will be less interested in irises or the Society. I am just cheerfully stepping aside to be replaced by another President, who is well qualified and dedicated to the purposes of the Society. I am looking forward to being able to spend more time in the garden, but I shall always be interested in the continued growth of AIS.

Thank you for your support of the Society and its activities. But, most of all—thank you for being our friends.

AIS LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

THE WORLD OF IRISES\$15.00

Edited by Warburton & Hamblen; 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. 494 pages of text; 32 pages full color. Published in 1978 and the most authoritative book on all phases of irises, scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover.

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Meet Me in St. Louie, Louie

1981

THE GREATER ST. LOUIS IRIS SOCIETY

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, LOUIE! CONVENTION '81!

Orville Dickhaut

St. Louis, Missouri, Gateway to the West, will be the setting for the 1981 AIS Convention. The Convention will be hosted by the Greater St. Louis Iris Society assisted by the Mineral Area Iris Society, both of Region 18. Headquarters will be the St. Louis Marriott near the airport. A guest planting of irises hybridized by 12 members of Region 18 will greet convention guests at the entrance to the Marriott and at its beautiful pool area.

Thirteen gardens will be included on the three-day tour. Ninety-seven hybridizers representing 29 states contributed nearly 2000 guest plants for the Convention. Seven tour gardens are in the St. Louis area and six are in the Mineral area, about 75 miles south of St. Louis.

St. Louis area gardens:

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest botanical garden in the United States, established in 1859 by Henry Shaw. In the heart of the city, it has more than 79 acres of gardens, horticultural displays and historic buildings, including Shaw's country home, Tower Grove House (1849), furnished with period antiques.

The 14-acre Japanese Garden, Seiwa-En, the largest traditional Japanese garden in North America, incorporates a four-acre lake, islands, footbridges, waterfalls, lanterns, plum arbor and teahouse. Zig-zag sections of footbridge over part of the lake, offer views of Japanese irises growing along both sides of the bridge. Irises from China grow in the dry gardens.

Near the Linnean House (camellias) is a sizeable iris garden to TBs, Siberica and spuria irises. The Washington, Missouri Iris Society donated plants to the garden in previous years. In 1979 the Greater St. Louis Iris Society added a long bed of guest irises backed by peonies and lightly shaded by ancient ginkgo trees.

Irises doing well in this '81 Convention garden include DRUCILLA SHAW (Bellagamba '78), a large ruffled white; INTY GREYSHUN (Ensinger); MICHIGAN PRIDE (Berndt '75) with golden standards and yellow-edged maroon falls; ENTOURAGE (Ghio '77), a ruffled, wide dusty rose blend with tangerine beards; SILVER HEATHER (Niswonger '78), a red-bearded ruffled silvery lilac self; FRESNO CALYPSO (Weiler '78), an intense orange with orange beards; CHARTREUSE RUFFLES (Rudolph '76), ruffled, laced pale grey-lilac with a wide chartruese band on the falls.

The two very beautiful rose gardens promise an added attraction at iris time and through October.

The Climatron, the world's first geodesic domed greenhouse, presents a tropical rainforest, a one-half acre jungle environment of orchids, banyan trees, palms, exotic fish and birdlife.

BELLAGAMBA'S BELLA VISTA GARDEN

During 33 years of tender loving care, the Bella Vista garden on a one-acre lot has grown along with Louise and Gus's five children, including two sets of twins. Spruce and pine trees that now provide welcome shade on a hot midwestern summer day were added after each served its turn as a Christmas tree. Bella Vista garden contains many companion plants that enhance the iris beds and lend perennial beauty to the garden, which attracts many visitors each year. Louise grows most of her own seedlings on a one and a half acre tract seventeen miles from Bella Vista.

Among the guest irises growing in Bella Vista are COPPER FLAME (Blodgett '78), a pleasing combination of gold and white; CHINA DRAGON (Shoop '79), a very colorful orange; Palmer's 49-75A, a lovely deep pink; LOUDOUN ROYAL (Crossman), a wide and very ruffled full purple (watch for this one!); BRANDY (McWhirter '81), outstanding new shade of tan-brown; STEADY PAGE (Kegerise '80), a ruffled brown-buff blend; SPELLMAKER (Corlew '81), a very nice shade of smoky rose-violet; CELESTIAL BALLET (Mohr '79), a great pure white; FICTION (Williamson '81), cream-white with a violet band with good form and good bud count; Keppel's 75-113B, a beautiful plicata with yellow ground and red-brown edging; DEAR DIANE (McEwen '79), outstanding dark violet-blue Siberian iris with ruffles and a silvery white edge on the falls; SIGNAL BLUE (McEwen '80), a very light blue Siberian with a new look—a darker blue signal; ROSEACRE (Warburton '79), semi-flared ruffled light violet-blue Siberian. Bellagamba, Briscoe, and Varner Siberians will also be growing in 1981.

DIENSTBACH and MORRIS GARDENS

The Dienstbach and Morris gardens are adjacent to each other; both overlook a lake. In the Mark and Marie Dienstbach garden, irises highlight a well-planned and nicely groomed city garden complete with stream, arched bridge, and colorful stone walkways. Roses, peonies and other plantings enhance this beautiful garden.

ERLENE RICHESON (Roderick '79), a ruffled peach-pink self from PINK TAFFETA and THICK N CREAMY (Weiler '78), an early, gorgeous, glowing white and yellow blend are among the well grown and nicely spaced irises in this garden.

The Jim and Jean Morris garden contains more than 200 guest irises planted in five beds. This year's bloom was approximately 75% on these first year plantings. Established beds were at nearly 100% bloom. As convention chairman for 1981, Jim invites all to meet him in St. Louie, Louie. His pre-convention preview of his guest irises prompted him to applaud QUEEN IN CALICO (J. Gibson '80), a gorgeous ruffled and laced magenta on orange plicata with brilliant orange beards; TUT'S GOLD (Schreiners '79), a ruffled golden yellow self; LOVE CHILD (Knocke '79), a purple-pink and red-purple bicolor with yellow beards; Vern Wood's beautifully branched pink 76-48; LOVELY KAY (Hamblen '80); Ensminger's AZ AP, a lovely pale blue IB with darker blue beards; and ANGEL'S ROBES (Williamson '79), a laced warm cream with a thin yellow halo.

WURL GARDEN

Russ and Betty Wurl have been growing irises for many years. Russ also does some hybridizing. They have planted the more than 150 guest iris in well spaced long beds with wide walkways facilitating easy viewing of the iris from either side of the beds.

The Mineral area gardens:

CHISM GARDEN

James Lee and Polly Chism have grown irises for many years. In preparation for the '81 Convention, they lifted all of their irises, redug and brought in many loads of materials to revitalize the beds before replanting their irises and planting the guest irises.

Many iris lovers toured their garden in 1980. Some of the irises they admired are SHEER POETRY (Palmer '79), a large, lacy, light blend with beautiful form—sheer loveliness; MALAYSIA (Ghio '76), a tall and stately

smooth brown; Schreiner's N5-25, an unusual and really different bitone with light violet standards and pink-lavender falls; HONEY LACE (Gibson '78), a soft and dignified plicata that seems well named; Burger's J-18, well branched, ruffled broad light blue with white beards; Hamblen's H-73-42A, well branched, ruffled wide pink and lavender-rose bitone with good garden value; PEACHTREE (D. Mohr '78), a wide and lacy buff-peach self with branching; BEAUTY CROWN (Hamner '77), large and imposing with peach standards and cream falls edged in peach; SPELLMAKER (Corlew '81), lovely ruffled lavender, sturdy plant with wide foliage; FAR GALAXIES (Babson '78), an eye catching rosy purple plicata, the white background showing in starry flecks; TROPIC STAR (Shockey '79), very white-white on sturdy well branched stalk; T3041-FCH-PR (Hager), a show stalk with four large blooms on strong well proportioned stalk, glowing medium violet, lighter area on falls below lavender tipped beards.

GRIFFIN GARDEN

After retiring in the spring of 1976, George and Viola Griffin expanded the landscaping of their yard and garden. Their front yard contains two large evergreen trees, rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, iris, and other perennials. Their back yard is bordered with plants, centered with a large flowering crab and several beds of Spuria, Louisiana, Siberian, and Japanese iris. The Japanese iris are adjacent to a pool containing water lilies and gold fish complemented by a fountain, water wheel and waterfall. In 1979, one-hundred new iris introductions were added. There one can see Helsley's 3R-CH-77, a red with good branching; WILD BERRY (Hamner '78), a tall plicata heavily marked with smoky violet-purple, having smoky tangerine beards; SUPER INDIGLOW (Schortman), a beautiful flower on a beautiful stalk; REGENT'S ROW (Denney '79), a large, broad medium blue self; BASHFUL BRIDE (Roderick '80), a pretty pink with good form.

HAHN GARDEN

Clyde and Anna Hahn are growing almost 200 recent introductions and numbered seedlings representing the efforts of nearly 70 hybridizers. Their irises are growing well in rows. Two star-shaped beds of other flowers are used as accents. A greenhouse is part of their garden.

BLUE TEMPEST (Burch '79), a pretty neglecta with blue tipped yellow-orange beards; CUT CRYSTAL (Rudolph '78), a lovely white flower with yellow edging on a sturdy plant with wide foliage; CENTER COURT

(Williamson '81), a clear, clean plicata; Burger's M-4, a very clear white with purple band on the falls banded brown, light orange beards; CAMPUS CUTIE (Hamner '77), a heavily ruffled peach self; MARMALADE SKIES (Niswonger '78), an IB that is an apricot-orange self, are among the plants admired in this garden in 1980. Many more await convention guests in 1981.

KNIGHT GARDEN

Ed and Betty Knight started iris-ing with five plants. As more and more irises were added, they became the predominant flower in the garden. Other perennials, peonies, columbines, lupines, penstemons, oriental poppies, and a few annuals are grown as companion plants. Additionally, a large vegetable garden extends behind the flower beds.

Some of the irises liked in their garden in 1980 included the two border bearded irises PICAYUNE (Keppel '77), a plicata with golden yellow standards, banded cream falls with hafts peppered russet brown and TAWNY GOLD (Hickerson '76), a beautiful color, plus LULLABY OF LOVE (Williamson '81), delicate color, well branched and sturdy stalk.

QUESNEL GARDEN

The PETITE D'ANET IRIS GARDEN had its origin more than quarter of a century ago when Victor and Opal Quesnel moved to their present home built in 1901, fronting on Missouri's historic old plank road. Petite d' Anet is the home of 1979 HM award winners MELON BISQUE and MISS PRISS.

The design of the garden envisioned and created by the Quesnels exhibits the aire of an old Victorian garden with a French influence. The garden contains more than 200 irises, including TB's, BB's, Sibericas, spurias and a few species. The stately dominant irises are interspersed with other herbaceous perennials, biennials, annuals and Alpine edging plants.

Getting attention from visitors were MOROCCO (Keppel '80), ruffled plicata from a cross of KILT LILT and CARAMBA, standards tawny brown flushed rose brown, falls white in center with tawny edging and maroon sanding; GLACIER MAGIC (Plough '77), pale blue standards, deeper blue flush on falls, blue beards.

RODERICK GARDEN

The Roderick garden was established in 1963 when the floral shop was purchased by Elvan and Pauline. Theirs is a display garden as well as a

small commercial garden. Pines, spruce and lilacs have been planted for a windbreak. A feature attraction is a 50 year-old pfitzer juniper trimmed oriental style. The garden features irises, jonquils, tulips, columbines, and daylilies, with assorted annuals and perennials in season. There are 270 guest irises plus nearly 200 of the latest named varieites, about 50 medians, as well as Al's own introductions and seedlings. A new seedling which he plans to name PURPLE PASSION proved to have good bud count and flowers sturdy enough to withstand two days of rain.

Among the other varieties that stood out in 1980 were TACO BELLE (Sexton '78), a tall bright variegata with clear yellow standards, brown-red falls and gold beards; SPINNING WHEEL (Nearpass '76), a plicata with white standards marked pale blue-violet and white, falls marked medium blue-violet; ROSE (Gaulter '79), old rose with rosy coral beards; LEMON LYRIC (D. Meek '78), very pretty ruffled lemon yellow with falls paling to cream; GOLD BURST (Palmer), cream with gold hafts, good branching; METALLIC BLUE (Niswonger '80), very sturdy branched plant with a lovely silvery blue flower and silvery blue beards.

Meet me in St. Louie, Louie, May of '81. Don't tell me the iris are blooming anywhere but there.

BOHRER GARDEN

Roy and Betty Bohrer have a spacious and sunny garden with nine groupings of iris beds arranged in coordinated patterns of geometric designs. The garden displays an extensive private collection of irises along with an abundance of guest plants. The three and one half acres allow for uncrowded spacing of plants and beds for ease of viewing. An attractive rock garden, a windmill, and pieces of statuary complement the isis beds.

Some of the varieties awaiting convention guests are ST. LOUIS BLUES (Schreiners '79), a big ruffled dark blue with flashes of white on the falls beneath white beards, great texture; BURGUNDY BROWN (Gibson '79), a brown-edged plicata over yellow with some white on the falls; MISTRESS (Keppel '80), a pale pink plicata—sweet and lovely—increases well; SHAMAN (DuBose '80), gold standards and black falls, grows well; AN-JAN (Bellagamba '79), a peachy pink with lots of personality; Bellagamba's 979CG, lacy white with red beards, opens four blooms at a time, heavy texture, very nice; COPPER CLASSIC (Roderick '79), large brown-orange with open standards and showy orange beards; BATTLE FURY (Varner '79), red, white, and blue—lavender-blue standards, white falls, red beards—small flowers but lots of bloom; Margie Robinson's 76-16A,

large ruffled lilac with silver sheen and very heavy texture; MOLLY BROWN (McGee), lovely crinkled and laced peach with orange beards; BUBBLING MOLASSES (Steinhauer '80), great crinkled gold with yellow beards.

KASSLY GARDEN

Dolores Kassly's garden, ten miles east of the Mississippi River in Illinois, is in a setting of tranquility, located above a small lake and across from a second larger lake inhabited by waterfowl. Another side of the garden has a back-ground of evergreens and deciduous trees. The new garden contains three large round beds each centered with a purple martin house; three other iris beds surround these beds. One of these beds is for Siberian irises, most from McGarvey, Varner, Briscoe and Bellagamba.

ST. LOUIS BLUES; ORITAM (Hoffmeister '77), burnt gold standards, brown-red falls; PERSIAN MORN (Blodgett '78), a light lavender with brown-edged falls and tangerine beards; and McGarvey's great Siberian WING ON WING were among the favorites blooming in the garden in 1980. 1981 should be even more floriferous. Watch for Briscoe's STEVE VARNER, a pale blue ruffled Siberian with full round form, and some of his bright and beautiful wine colored Siberians with full round form. Don't miss Varner's graceful and durable ANN DASCH '78, a light blue-purple dappled Siberian edged with a deeper blue-purple. Varner's RARE JEWEL '79 is just that and beautiful.



Among hosts waiting to welcome conventioners are—

*Al and Pauline Roderick
George and Viola Griffin*

*Clyde and Anna Hahn
Ed and Betty Knight*





KETCHUM IS CREATED

(Top) Irises are removed from Mrs. Morgan Ketchum's garden by (l. to r.) Ralph Strange, Luther Martin, Robert Carney, Edwin R. Fox and Ewell B. Pittard, November, 1953. (Center) The site in Audubon in 1953; taking shape in 1957.



1953

1957



KETCHUM MEMORIAL IRIS GARDEN— THE HISTORY AND THE FUTURE

Mrs. Robert S. Carney

A charter member of the American Iris Society began the chain of events which led to the Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. James Hampton Kirkland, long-time Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, reading of experiments in cross-pollination by Miss Grace Sturdevant, a well-known horticulturist, was interested enough to try crossing some of the old iris in his garden. He became a charter member of the American Iris Society which was organized in 1920. His Copper Lustre was the American Dykes winner in 1938, according to the *Vanderbilt Alumnus*.

Marion Kirkland, niece of Chancellor Kirkland, married Judge Morgan Ketchum of Memphis. She established her garden and also hybridized. After the deaths of Judge and Mrs. Ketchum, their son, of Birmingham, Alabama, talked with Mr. John Pierce about plans for the iris. It was decided that the splendid collection, consisting of about 2500 rhizomes, valued at \$5000, be offered to the City of Memphis to be used in the development of an iris garden for the benefit of the public.

On August 6, 1953, Mr. Pierce appeared before the Memphis Park Commission, stating that, "If the Park Commission would accept the gift and designate a location for the planting, the local group would assist with the layout and arrangement as to color scheme and keep up the planting", according to the minutes of that meeting.

The City of Memphis agreed to allocate an attractive plot of ground, furnish labor for the planting of the iris and to maintain the garden in the future, provided there was a local chapter of the American Iris Society which would take complete responsibility of the collection of iris, adding new introductions and removing older iris as they became obsolete. Mr. Robert S. Carney was the first president of the newly formed society.

Mrs. William F. Murrah wrote an early description of this beginning. "A six-acre section of the new 360 acre Audubon Park was chosen for the project. A well-known Memphis landscape architect, Mr. Robert Elliott, gave his services. A Planting Committee was selected, composed of Mr. John Pierce, Robert Carney, Jake Scharff, Mrs. E. R. Fox, Mrs. Elby Martin and Mrs. William Murrah. On Armistice Day of 1953, six enthusiastic members, John Pierce, Robert Carney, E. R. Fox, Luther Martin and Ralph Strange, Jr., met at the Ketchum home, dug the iris, washed the roots, and sacked them, tagging them with their names.



1977

Visitors to the 1977 AIS Convention in Memphis enjoyed Ketchum.

"In the meantime, Mrs. E. R. Fox made charts to scale on cardboard sheets of the different designs on the blue print, and she, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Murrah together worked on the charts, placing the iris in the diagrams of the beds. There were several truck loads of the iris when they were moved from the Ketchum garden out to Audubon Park, With the supervision of the six men and the three women over the crew of labor furnished by the Park Commission, the job of planting the iris was completed over the weekend following that Armistice Day."

During May and June 1955 the members of the planting Committee assigned two beds each to themselves. The number of beds and gardeners has been increased.

When entering the garden through the East Gate, one faces the wide vista, a forty-foot green grass panel with brick walks on each side, with a low abelia hedge on one side and holly planting on the outside. Pines, abelias, hollies, dog-woods, flowering crabs, cherry laurels, live oaks and magnolias were used for backgrounds, vistas and a feeling of enclosure. This had been a bare field when the Memphis Area Iris Society began its work.

When Mr. Pierce resigned as Chairman of the Park Committee, Mr. Jake Scharff became Chairman, working diligently with the organization of the committee to bring the garden into an even better condition. Cobblestones from the Mississippi River levee, furnished by the Park Commission, edged each bed, and the garden took on a whole new look.

In his writing of the garden, Mr. Scharff says, "The Ketchum Memorial Garden is a public garden and belongs to the City of Memphis. Every iris donated to it becomes the property of the City and the proceeds from those sold are returned to the garden. The garden is recognized by Iris Authorities throughout the country as being one of the most outstanding gardens in the U.S."

Mrs. Murrah was the first statistical recorder. Mrs. Brenda Belus currently handles this task. Information is available on any iris in the garden, its location the source from which it came, the price paid if bought, and donor's name if given.

The Memphis Area Iris Society appoints a hostess chairman annually, who in turn assigns someone to be in the garden during bloom season to answer questions, give information on the iris, as well as tell about the iris show, tour and sale.

Audubon Park has gardens of daffodils, dahlias, roses, wild flowers, magnolias, and a Japanese Garden, camellia house and conservatory. The park facilities include a golf course, tennis courts, picnic grounds and play areas. On the ground of Audubon Park is also the Goldsmith Civic Garden Center which opened in 1964 as a gift to the City of Memphis by the Goldsmith family for the people of Memphis. This center is the meeting place of many garden clubs, flower shows, art exhibits and hundreds of varieties of plants.

The Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden is an ever-growing project with new beds, changing shrubbery and plantings, and experiments in the use of fertilizer, conditioners and weed controls. New workers have put in many hours planning for and working in "the park". Mrs. Lucille Miller continued Mrs. Murrah's work. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Belus currently share the park chairman position and direct the sale program annually, assisted by Mr. Robbie Browne and Mrs. Bess Browne. A group of the Iris Society members have spent over 3000 hours in the past five years updating, planning and toiling over the 24 beds. These beds contain nearly 950 varieties of tall bearded, median, Japanese, Siberian, Louisiana and spuria iris. Among the tall bearded are all 45 of the American Dykes medal winners, the popularity poll and award of merit iris. Approximately \$2000 is spent yearly on improvements to the garden and these funds are raised by the iris sales. The Park Commission furnishes some supplies and labor.

Repeated visits to the Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden are delightful experiences. And the visitor will see the realization of the planned developments in the next ten years in the iris garden and in the total garden area of the Audubon Park.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

A local iris society may become an affiliate of the American Iris society upon application to the Regional Vice President who will verify the AIS memberships. The application will then be forwarded to the AIS Chairman of Affiliates. The local society must meet the following requirements.

- 1.) All officers of the local society must be members of AIS.
- 2.) There must be at least ten AIS members in the local society.
- 3.) The date of the society's annual election of officers must be stated.
- 4.) The society must participate in the AIS system of registration and awards and must adhere to AIS show rules.
- 5.) The society must state its affiliation with AIS on show schedules, publicity releases, including when possible an invitation to join the AIS, with appropriate membership information.
- 6.) If the above requirements are met, societies with 50% of their members belonging to AIS will be affiliated without charge. If a society has less than 50% AIS membership, there will be an affiliation fee, currently \$25.
- 7.) After having initially qualified, a society must submit **annually** a list of its officers and members to the RVP of its region, who will verify AIS membership and forward it to the Chairman of Affiliates. Failure to report will result in automatic disqualification.

Mrs. Edward Owen
Chairman of Affiliates

NOTICE TO AFFILIATES EXPIRATION DATES FOR AFFILIATION

Applications approved between October 1st through March 31st will have expiration date of January 1st.

Applications approved between April 1st through September 30th will have expiration date of July 1st.

BLOOMIN' REMEMBRANCES

Larry Gaulter, CA

In response to readers' request for more information about the personalities of hybridizers and in commemoration of the 60th year of the American Iris Society, we present a compendium of memoirs—both published and contributed—of Larry Gaulter.

Mr. Gaulter received the Hybridizer's Medal in 1978 and was awarded the Dykes Memorial Medal in 1979 for his iris MARY FRANCES. His earlier awards for iris achievements and his contributions to the establishment of the AIS organization as it is today, are too numerous to list.

Equally important is the warm humor that pervades his memories of the heritage of the organization and the iris greats. Earlier, several excerpts were published under the same title. Here, however, is a more comprehensive collection of bloomin' remembrances.

Frances and I bought our first home in Chanute, Kansas in 1931: little house, big lot full of weeds. In the midst of the weeds, a growing family and a depression, Frances and the nosy neighbors thought I ought to upgrade the neighborhood by planting some vegetables and flowers. A neighbor forced a bushel basket of irises on me.

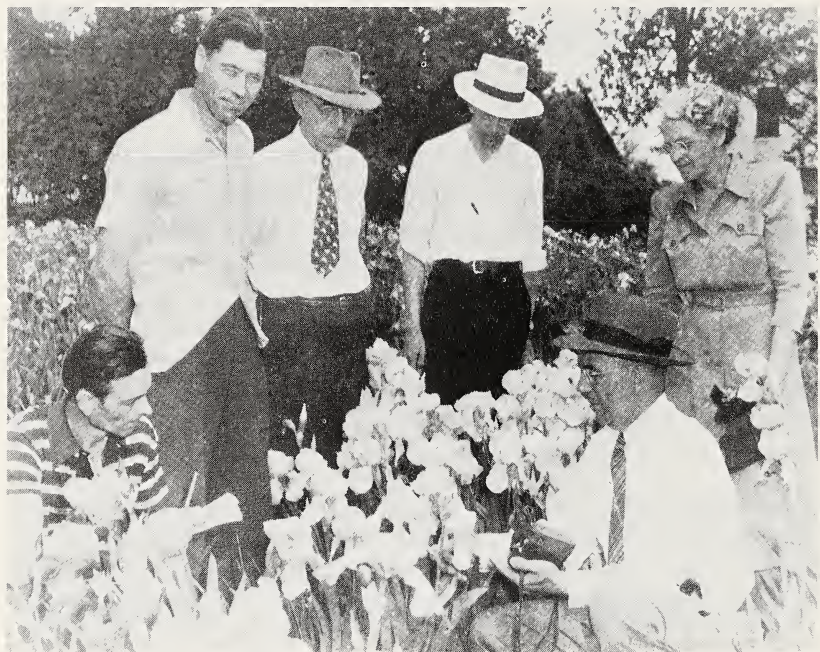
I planted a row of irises, a row of potatoes and so forth, thinking that, times being what they were, everyone and every plant should shift for himself. Nothing grew or bloomed but the irises, and I decided to fill the whole yard with irises.

That same spring, I read an ad in FLOWER GROWER Magazine that Hill's Iris and Peony Farm had a dozen iris plants for a dollar. We drove to La Fontaine, Kansas and found the garden full of visitors. After selecting, I expected Mr. Hill to dig my plants at once, but he gently explained that they would be shipped after the bloom season.

We became constant visitors to Hill's and I was invited to go with them for their annual visit to the Hans and Jacob Sass iris plantings. During those yearly visits, I met most of the iris personalities of that time, including Dave Hall, Orville Fay, Rholin Cooley, Agnes and Charles Whiting and others.

Mr. Hill was a gentleman and a scholar; a day spent with him could be an education in horticulture or any number of other subjects.

One of the first law school graduates of the University of Kansas, he was a cattle buyer for the army during WW 1 and then went into private law practice. For many years he bought irises, peonies, hems and other plants for his farm on the Verdgres River. He lost his hearing completely and gave up his law practice, concentrating on the farm. For some years he had been putting out a catalogue and had co-introduced many of the Sass introductions. He allowed me to read some of his correspondence with them, with iris descriptions and bloodlines going back to 1918.



A SCENE FROM AIS HISTORY: In John Ohl's Gardens, Wichita, 1948, are (l to r) Larry Gault, John Ohl, Henry Schirmer, Father Kinnisila, Agnes Whiting, Carl Schirmer.

* * *

Recently I read a book entitled, THE GREATEST THING THAT ALMOST HAPPENED. That reminded me of one of the greatest iris conventions that I almost attended, held in the Nebraska-Iowa area in 1951. By then I had moved to California, and I sent in my reservation well in advance. Several days before the convention, I took the train to Omaha, registered at the hotel and took a taxi out to visit Harry Sass.

Agnes Whiting and Harry Randall were there, but the convention had been postponed due to cold, rainy weather that held back bloom! Harry had flown over from England to be the guest speaker and was, of course, enroute when they tried to notify him. I called Carl Schirmer in St. Joseph, Missouri, who invited me to come see his garden 200 miles south in peak bloom. I spent several days there, seeing fine bloom, so my trip was not a loss. I felt sorry for Harry, however.

Harry Randall visited America and American iris gardens in several later trips. He was a keen judge of irises, quick to extol the merits of some and just as quick to point out the obvious faults of others. Some few hybridizers (including me) ask for constructive criticism, but really want constructive praise.

Walking through iris plantings with Harry, I noticed that he hardly glanced at the flower; his primary interest was the branching and bud count. He particularly admired one seedling of mine with branches that branched. It had good flower form, but dull color, and I had been using it for breeding with no intention of introducing it.

He asked if he might grow it, along with a few others he admired. A few years later, he wrote me saying, "Your seedling with 'branching that branches' has three blooms open, on different levels, and there should be another bloom open in time for the Chelsea Show." He said that he had won Best of Show for several years and fully expected to win again with this one. He wrote later to tell me that it had not won. When he asked the judges why not, they informed him that it had too much branching! This tells me that one can overdo anything!

* * *

I will long remember the Utah convention of 1954; we met so many interesting hybridizers for the first time. We picked up Rose Mitchell in Berkeley. Professor Mitchell had just passed away and Rose was the RVP. She'd broken her leg just a few weeks previously, and her doctor had forbidden her to attempt the trip. In considerable pain and on crutches, she did anyway and had nothing but good humor and cheer to offer.

In Tell Muhlestein's frozen garden we found MISSION STARLIGHT, a very ruffled blue-white with blue beards, the best of this class that I had seen to that point. We learned that the originator was Melba Hamblen, who lived near Salt Lake City in Roy, Utah, where she had extensive plantings and good lines going.

After the convention, we visited Mission Bell Gardens and met Melba and Jim Hamblen. This was the first of many visits to their garden. Melba

pointed out some of her crosses, which I considered too wide to ever get anywhere unless one lived to be a hundred or more. For instance, from HELEN McGREGOR x pinks, she had a wide range of interesting combinations of colors, with a generation or so.

One from this line guested at the 1956 Convention was named GLITTERING AMBER, and I was very taken with it. Melba let me take home stamens from this plant, and I took them home and spread the pollen as far as it would go. From GLITTERING AMBER X GOLDEN STAIRS, I bloomed a yellow registered as NOB HILL, which Melba introduced. Another cross with the same pollen was GLITTERING AMBER X MADEMOISELLE (LAVANESQUE x PATHFINDER). That seed pod produced CLAUDIA RENE, CAPE TOWN and BACCARAT. Anyone who has seen these varieties can see what a range of coloring can come from one seed pod.

The pollen that Melba gave me was the start of my bloodlines in colors that I have linebred, along with other choices from her garden over the past twenty years, which I have thought compatible with my crosses. Melba's wide crosses showed imagination, of which I had very little, and I am convinced that she has a special dispensation with powers unknown. I intend to continue taking advantage of her generosity.

I remember one visit to Mission Bell Garden, as we were about to leave for home in time to get a motel room enroute. She wanted us to see an iris from MARGARET ALBRIGHT that was about to open and wouldn't. Jim ran an extension cord from the barn and placed a 150 watt bulb, suspended from a stepladder, directly over the bud. We waited for a few hours for the flower to unfurl and nothing happened! Finally, at dusk, we had to leave. We were too late to get a motel room and drove until we got home at 4 a.m. As a souvenir, we had a good color slide that Frances took of us all gathered around the bloomstalk, with its ladder and lightbulb, our blank faces staring at the bud that wouldn't open.

* * *

At that same convention, in the beautiful Fisher Harris Gardens, my attention was attracted to another fine iris named ALTAR LIGHT. When I asked whose iris this was, an attractive young lady standing nearby responded that it was hers. She was Opal Brown from Walla Walla, Washington. From then on, as often as possible, we made a circular trip during bloom season: to Oregon for the Schreiner, Tompkins, DeForest and Cooley blooms; from there to Walla Walla to visit Tom and Opal Brown; to Wenatchee to Gordon Plough's plantings; south to Utah for the Hamblen, Muhlestein, Peterson and other gardens. In all, we covered about 3,500 miles each time.

Once, when we arrived in Walla Walla after dark, Tom insisted that we come to the garden at once. By flashlight we saw brilliant colors and exotic blends that we could hardly wait to see again by daylight the next morning. Opal astounded me, as had Melba, with her wild crosses and resulting good seedlings. Her imagination and magic pay off. Having always played life's game close to my vest, I have little of either. However that may be, the reason I am so rich is that I originally inherited several million dollars, which I shrewdly ran up to a considerable fortune.

* * *

A few years later, I was the guest speaker for the Region 15 annual meeting. In the afternoon, before the evening banquet when I was supposed to confound and amaze the audience with my knowledge and loquaciousness, a hundred or so were viewing the beautiful plantings at Melba and Jim's. Among them was Fisher Harris.

A slightly inebriated person walked up and said to him, "So! You're the great and famous attorney Fisher Harris. Cite me a case!" Now, I'm a miserable speaker and I know it, but I will talk about irises at the drop of a hat. At the banquet, I started off by mentioning that I met Frances at a dance hall where I was playing Dixieland jazz, and Frances won a Charleston contest. The same inebriated fellow who had wanted a case cited heckled me with "What songs do you play?" I cited some. He countered, "Well, play one!" He had something. I hadn't played my sax for over thirty years, but I bet I could have played a better tune on that than I could make a speech!

* * *

(From Mr. Gaulter's article "As I Recall" published in AIS REGION 18 BULLETIN, Vol. 17 - No. 1, Fall 1975) During that season (about 1938—Ed.), Bob Hill and I left our hotel room very early and went out to the seedling fields immediately, while Mr. Hill and the Sassses were still eating breakfast. It wasn't long until we discovered the first bloom of the finest blend we had ever seen.

The seedling was eventually named PRAIRIE SUNSET, and the following year Dr. Wilhelm from Chicago offered Hans one hundred dollars for a plant of it, the year of introduction. Dave Hall bought three stamens for ten dollars. It was finally introduced, and Hans sold 26 plants of it the first year (all he wanted to spare at the time). He told Mr. Hill that they made more money that year from the sale of PRAIRIE SUNSET than they did from their corn crop. This was during the depression years, you must remember.

Rholin Cooley told me that the second year after its introduction, Hans had only a few plants left and Rholin offered Hans a thousand dollars for the stock of it. Hans studied just a moment, and his mild voice said, "No, I think not."

* * *

(From a letter, September 3, 1979 to AIS Registrar Key Nelson) For instance, did you know that Arthur A. Scott, President of the Scott Paper Company, helped to organize AIS and was the treasurer until his death? Did you know that Alfred Kinsey joined AIS in 1936? His mailing address was the University of Indiana, and he was a member until his death. Dr. Kinsey was a member before and during his sex studies, so he must have had other interests than sex! Author Rex Stout was also a member of AIS for many years.



MELBA TRIUMPHS!

Word received from President Leon Wolford just as this issue went to press indicated that Melba Hamblen has been awarded the Foster Memorial Plaque.

Mr. Wolford was notified by Bryan Dodsworth, President of the British Iris Society, that Mrs. Hamblen was selected for this award, voted annually by the British Iris Society to one hybridizer who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the genus iris.

Congratulations to one of the American Iris Society's most distinguished and congenial hybridizers! As Mr. Wolford wrote, "Again, congratulations, Melba! You are a winner in every area of irising. We appreciate you!!"

GREAT NEWS

Word received from Membership Secretary, Ronald Mullin in August reports that AIS Membership has now passed the 6,300 mark. We are continuing to grow as our members share the pleasures of irising with gardeners across the nation. Such news adds fresh momentum and optimism to the AIS Outlook as we complete our 60th year of existence.

1980 IRIS SEASON REVIEWED IN VIRGINIA

F. G. Stephenson

For several years I have taped comments on the various irises seen here at Ingleside Gardens but have never gotten around to transcribing them. This year I have kept notes and have them in better form so will make my first attempt at this sort of thing.

The season started off with a dazzling display of SDBs. Never before have I had so nearly 100% bloom with some showing as many as 12 bloomstalks. So many were in bloom at one time that it was hard to pick a favorite. Keppel's FINE PRINT, as always, put on a fine show. It never fails.

Something happened to the IBs. Looking at the bed one would have thought that they were late blooming SDBs. All were extremely short, but bloom was excellent with SPACE CADET, (Moldovan '70) and TURTLEDOVE, (Moldovan '72) sharing honors for beauty. My first inclination was to junk all my remaining IBs, since I had cut back drastically last year due to poor performance. They may still go.

Also having cut back drastically on BBs two years ago, I am inclined to feel that it was not drastic enough since only TWO out of thirty bloomed! I can't imagine why as they have always done beautifully.

As disappointing as the IBs and BBs were, the TB bloom made up for everything as it was the best in years. There were some which are usually excellent performers that just sat and sulked. I wish I knew why, because, in most cases, adjacent plants performed to perfection. All got the same care. It just doesn't make sense! I had an unusually high no-bloom on my newly planted things while some outdid themselves. Some that failed to bloom were WELL ENDOWED (Ghio '79), SUMPTIOUS (Gatty '78), BEVERLY SILLS (Hager '79), BETTERMINT (Ghio '79), VIVACIOUS (Boushay '77), ARTISTE (Ghio '78), INHERITANCE (Babson '78) and INTUITION (Ghio '77). The latter two have produced large clumps but no bloomstalks.

Undoubtedly, the garden honors were taken by FOOLISH PLEASURE (Gaulter '77). This is an extremely ruffled, flaring medium lilac. Each stalk was a "show stalk" with excellent branching, many buds and long lasting.

Perhaps the most disappointing was CRUSHED VELVET (Ghio '77). The bloomstalks were unusually tall and rather weak. Branching was high and

poor. The flower certainly possessed none of the quality of "crushed velvet". The flowers were extremely poor. I can't imagine Joe introducing this.

PATINA (Keppel '78) was, by far, the most exciting, being a greenish brown-tan plicata. VERY DIFFERENT! Branching was excellent; three branches and a spur with an 11 bud count. Almost as equally exciting was GENESIS (Tompkins '77). This is a brilliant butter-yellow of the BRIDE'S HALO type. It was extremely beautiful, even though the plant was somewhat damaged by an early freeze. I can hardly wait to see this one next year.

MAGNIFIQUE (Ghio '76) is an excellent white with unusually good substance. There were many stalks, each of show quality with three and four flowers open.

There was no question as to the longest lasting flower. MANISA (Wall '76) is a deep red that is absolutely fade-proof and spot-proof. Each flower lasts *four* days and endures the hottest sun without a trace of burn. This is truly an excellent red.

SNOW JADE, (Parker '76) is a very lovely medium to large white with lots of green influence. Beards are pure white; branching is very good. This is a much overlooked white. MANDOLIN (Ghio '77) is a very large showy golden orange with fiery red beards. A commanding flower! It tends to branch a bit high but has excellent bud count. ACTRESS (Keppel '76) is a clean lilac of medium size flower with dusty orange beards—somewhat low-growing but with excellent branching.

SPACE ODESSY (Hager '78) is a huge spectacular white ground plicata stitched and edged lavender-blue, extremely clean with excellent branching and a very high bud count. FLAREUP (Ghio '77) is a flaring and ruffled creamy brown with brown beards; closed standards, good branching with good bloom progression add to a high bud count. BUTTONWILLOW (Roe '77) has much green influence! Standards are a very light lemon yellow with falls of a very bright lemon-yellow; lemon beards. This is a very showy plant, although inclined to be rather tall with fair branching.

BEAUTY CROWN (Hamner '77) a real Beauty! Pale peach-pink stands with ivory-peach falls, the entire flower nicely ruffled. COFFEE HOUSE (Ghio '77) is a deep ruffled brown self with golden brown beard and very good branching, although branches and stems tend to be a bit weak, especially, in wet weather. It does not fade.

MIRROR IMAGE (Hager '79) looks very much like STEPPING OUT. Contrary to hybridizers information this iris blooms fairly early. It has good form and very good branching. FAR GALAXIES (Hager '78) is a white-

ground plicata stitched deep purple with very little ground showing. Flowers are large and showy but blooms late, just opposite hybridizer's description.

SAN JOSE (Ghio '77). Tan standards with falls a blend of tan and violet with tan beards, a very impressive and clean iris with good growth habits. CATHEDRAL WINDOWS (Babson '77) is a red blend with blue blazes and dark brown beards. This is a rather pleasing flower that varies in color from garden to garden.

WESTERN HOSTESS, (Babson '77) got a lot of attention from garden visitors. A deeply fluted light blue self with pale yellow beards on show stalks, it offered excellent branching and was long lasting. LADY LOVELORN (K. Mohr) was a rather so-so iris not too different from many in this color class, poor branching with flowers of pale blue standards and violet-purple falls.

PLAYGIRL (Gatty '77) blooms in luscious pink self with pink beards, plus good branching and nicely ruffled flower. A very good pink. GUYS AND DOLLS (Varner '78) is not too exciting! Standards are buff and falls are rose-violet edged buff. Flowers tend to be small, but are flared and ruffled with very good branching. WILD WEST (Ghio '79) is going to have to prove itself. A mahogany-brown self with golden brown beards, it surely didn't perform well here, as the flower fades rapidly and the stalk has poor branching.

PACIFIC SHORES (Babson '79) has standards in blue-white and falls, medium blue-purple edged pale blue with much blue-white veining. A late bloomer, it offers good branching and bud count. Not too exciting! BIRTHSTONE (Babson '78) is just the opposite of PACIFIC SHORES. This is an exciting iris with lots of green influence, extremely smooth and clean. Standards are pastel greenish ecru; falls are white, edged color of standards. Beards are blue; branching and bud count, excellent. An excellent performer.

ORANGE PUNCH (Greenwood '79), unfortunately, is one of those plants that didn't do well but did provide an exciting flower which was extremely ruffled. Standards are an orange-buff blend; falls are orange with red beards. Next year this should be a dazzler! JEANNE PRICE (Jones '77), a bright yellow self with lemon beards, was one of the nicest yellows in the garden. There is good branching and long lasting flowers.

HORNY LORRIE (Hager '78) is a very interesting novelty! It is an orchid and beige blend with extremely flaring falls. Yellow beards are tipped with sharp white horns. No wonder it took Ben 5 years to decide to introduce this! YVONNE B. BURKE (Hager '77) is a deep purple self with

matching beards, a bit darker than NAVY STRUT which it resembles. LOST IN WONDER (F. Brown '75) was at its best this year. A most attractive plant! Flowers have ruffled orange-buff standards; falls are pale amber with faint orchid blending, bordered antique gold.

In retrospect the following were exceptionally good. DUSKY EVENING (Schreiners '71) produced a show clump for the very first time in the six years it has been growing in the garden. It's one of those wierd ones; you either like it or you don't.

Of the older pinks standing out were VANITY (Hager '75), BLUSHING DEB (Olson '74), CHERISHED (Corlew '74) and PRINCESS (Gatty '72). All were good but VANITY, to me, is still the truest pink in the garden and the better grower.

BASIC BLACK (Hager '71) seems to be the blackest with BLACK MARKET (Plough '74) coming in second. Alone in its class is BROOKFLOWER (Schreiners '73). This one has been a good producer all along; it just never fails. COSMOPOLITAN (Hamblen '73) has always been a good grower for me even though it has proven to be a disappointment in many areas. In fact, it is the only Hamblen iris that grows consistently well for me.

GRAND COMMAND (Neubert '71) and EMMA LOUISA (Buckles '69), each having light orchid standards and plum-purple falls, produced spectacular clumps and were outstanding examples of the older bi-colors. E. L. has falls nearer plum-red and G. C. has heavier haft markings.

LOUISE WATTS (Blocher '71) is still one of the more outstandingly consistent blends that always does well.

No review would be complete without comment on the light blues. INDEPENDENCE PASS (Jefferies '74) and BLUE REFLECTION (Schreiners '74) are consistently good but I. P. almost always produces "show stalks"; I. P. comes closest to my ideal for a truly outstanding iris.

It is safe to say that 1980 has been the most consistent bloom-year throughout the Roanoke area. The earliest bloom seemed to be in the garden of Frances Brown, peaking around May 12th. Seldom has this garden produced such an abundance of quality bloom. My garden, which is only three miles away, peaked ten days later with an abundance of bloom. In Blacksburg about 35 miles away and several hundred feet higher, the Nelson Price garden peaked around May 25th and takes all honors for quantity and quality of bloom. Clumps were quite large with those producing ten or more bloomstalks being the rule rather than the exception. All the plants were very uniform and the result was a dazzle of color.

The garden of Lloyd Zurbrigg in Radford, viewed in the rain, had some very nice seedlings as well as a few named varieties. The most unusual of the seedlings being N8-1. This was a huge blue flounced iris which he will introduce. There were several more subtle things that I liked, but the rain was not conducive to close study. Lloyd's field garden in Dublin covers more than an acre, provided a veritable sea of color. Many seedlings here showed promise, especially the flounces. Perhaps the most interesting irises growing here are the *laevigatas*. Some of these were extremely exciting. Time did not allow a closer study of these.

In winding down, sitting here beside my rock-garden pool and waterfall, I would be remiss in not mentioning the Siberians. They bloomed unusually early and are still blooming in June. The *Spurias* are just beginning to bloom and are quite excellent. To comment on these would consume too much time. Maybe later!

Already I am looking forward to next year. After several years of cutting down on my plantings, I may resume expanding my plantings, as my neighbor has offered almost unlimited space for new iris beds. She dislikes mowing. Since Nelson Price will have hundreds of surplus rhizomes I may move some of these here and divide some of my clumps. This is virgin iris soil so I should grow some very nice things.

Until next year then, I'll continue to dream!



What volcano? Region 13 held a judges' training class May 25 as rain came and ash from Mt. St. Helens fell nearby.

WOOD ASH—A TRACE ELEMENT BONANZA!

O. M. Otte, PA

O. M. "Morrie" Otte is both a chemical engineer and the talented Editor of the Region 3 Newsletter, where this article appeared in Spring, 1980. We thank him for sharing this impressive information with AIS members.

The most common question regarding proper and complete fertilization of irises (or other plants) that follows a soil management discussion is —"How do I determine whether my garden is deficient in the micro or trace mineral nutrients?" And if these trace nutrients are lacking, "How can I overcome some of these vital soil requirements?"

Without extensive and very expensive soil analysis that probes far beyond the typical commercial laboratory "soil test", the average iris grower is economically excluded from the solutions to his trace nutrient questions or soil deficiency problems.

Cheer up! There is an excellent source of most micro nutrient or trace mineral nutrients readily available to any iris grower willing to exert a minimum amount of effort (usually at no expense) in locating a generous and continuous source of supply.

What is this mysterious and magical free source of such sought after and essential soil ingredient? Are you ready? WOOD ASH!

My parents were avid gardeners, and from my earliest experiences resulting from my parents encouraging me "to have my very own garden", I was taught the value of wood ash in encouraging both flowers and vegetables to produce a better yield. So for over forty years I have been using wood ash successfully on everything I grew. It worked! I never completely knew why, and even today, I still intend to continue searching for additional information and sources of these little discussed, but vital, nutrients.

After I used wood ash on my tall bearded iris beds, it was apparent that those iris plants that got a "dose" of wood ash outperformed the clumps that missed out, simply because my supply of wood ash was limited. **Without exception every color classification iris show ribbon I ever won was from one of my wood ash treated iris plants!**

Wood ash has served me well. My neighbor has a fireplace and also a wood burning stove in his basement family room. At my urging he has applied his wood ash on parts of his vegetable garden (he isn't a flower grower), and it shows a dramatic vegetable crop increase in the sections of his garden where only wood ash has been applied. Let's discuss these "secret ingredients".

Have you ever noticed as you strolled through the woods that the violet plants are larger, the blooms are taller and more profuse, and the bloom color is more intense when this particular wild violet plant is growing nearby to where some hiker or camper had built a **wood fire a year or two ago**? The other violet plants are growing in so-called "rich woods dirt". You may have noticed these same superior violet plant characteristics occur in a plant growing in the residue of a **completely rotted** fallen tree or tree stump that may have died 25 or more years ago.

What accounts for this vast time differential, when it is obvious that **wood** in some way was somehow the source of the superior growth characteristics noted in each of the violet plants discussed?

The answer, of course, is by burning or combustion of the wood, organic materials are rapidly (minutes-hours) converted to the residual mineral ash solids and to the large volume of volatile liquids and gases that escape as wood smoke. Complete or efficient combustion converts complex organo-mineral compounds into metallic oxide solids that are usually relatively soluble in water and, therefore, are readily available to the plant. These wood ash solids or metal oxides are highly-extremely alkaline, pH-9.5, and readily react with acidic soil ingredients (if present) to perform the equivalent soil nitrilization accomplished by ground limestone, lime, or other alkali agent application.

Iris growers in the Southwest can still benefit from applying wood ash to gain the micro mineral nutrients, but they must take note of the additional wood ash alkalinity effects on their already over-alkaline soils. Acidic commercial fertilizers tailored to soil testing recommendations offer the southwestern iris grower the simplest and most profitable solution to excessive alkalinity. I have gardened in the Eastern, Great Lakes, Midwestern, High Plains, Rocky Mountain, and Southwestern U.S., and wood ash has provided me superior plant growth wherever I have used it.

Superior growth from wood ash you say? Now where am I, a city dweller, going to find a source of wood ash? What kind of nonsense is this?

The U.S. Dept. of Energy has projected **9 million** wood burning stoves and furnaces to be in use throughout the U.S. by the end of calendar 1980! In addition, there are wood burning fireplaces (current census question), Bar-B-Q pits, charcoal grills, and in the Southwest, the hickory smoked rib restaurants. In some areas of the United States, home incinerators are still legal, and these provide ash from wood, paper eggshells, bones, and other household garbage. With a minimum effort any

conscientious iris grower **can** locate a ready source of wood ash close by to his home or iris garden. Check the want ads for firewood sellers, and follow up on their best local customers.

If you find you have a choice, you should choose dry wood ash from the most efficient wood burning source available. This will avoid applying higher percentages of charcoal or other unburned organic materials that in effect dilute the applied mineral content. Wood ash sources listed in the order of decreasing mineral content are: (1) Wood burning furnaces, (2) Wood burning stoves or space heaters, (3) Commercial Bar-B-Q pits (4) Wood burning fireplaces or public park picnic grills, (5) Home incinerators, (6) Charcoal grills. This list is not meant to be all inclusive, nor are the listings necessarily exact in every case since the real criteria of wood ash quality is the actual wood burning efficiency of the burner. Cold, dry wood ash can be transported and stored in easily carried small, metal garbage cans or heavy walled plastic bags.

O.K., now you feel like "Little Polly Flanders Playing In The Cinders". You have a bucket of wood ash. What have you acquired that is unavailable in commercial fertilizer? Let's see if we can discuss it and work it out to sensible conclusions together.

SOURCE OF ANALYSIS DATA

First of all, we will be discussing an Emission Spectrograph Analysis of typical wood ash that was removed from my own high efficiency wood burning furnace. The actual analysis work was done at a multi-million dollar laboratory by one of my scientific associates (an iris growing friend) using very sophisticated laboratory equipment and techniques. Hopefully, additional iris grower-oriented information will become available from several other planned future soil conditioning investigations. Regardless, let's move on with the discussion of **wood ash**.

In order to emphasize the benefits of applying wood ash obtained from a **local** fire wood source, we better follow the life history of our discussion sample of wood ash used in this analysis.

SOURCE AND LIFE HISTORY OF THE WOOD ASH SAMPLE

Wild cherry wood salvaged from the tree tops of commercial logging operations was the furnace fuel from which our wood ash sample originated. The tree growth rings easily counted in the stump indicated about 60 years of regular, **healthy** growth in our specimen tree that grew in a mixed timber stand of oaks, ash, maple, hickory, and scattered specimens of many other native Pennsylvania trees.

The fact that the wood obtained from our cherry tree grew in an oak environment is important in this sample discussion since oak leaves create a very acid soil condition with acids strong enough to break down the existing rocks, shale, and red clay soil in which our western Pennsylvania wood source grew. In other words, our wood ash sample benefitted from the highly acidic growth conditions created by the oak trees that actually permitted the valuable trace minerals to be released from both the soil and the subsoil (in a water soluble form) to become available through the root system of our **healthy** 60-year old prime timber cherry tree.

We stress a **healthy** 60-year old tree since this excellent timber quality tree was obviously getting all of the required soil nutrients to maintain its rapid, massive, regular growth **throughout its long life**.

If our tree age estimate of 60 years is fairly accurate (the center heartwood rings were not counted), our **water soluble** supply of trace element nutrients becomes more understandable and further emphasizes the real high-dollar value of wood ash as a concentrated easily applied source of almost all of the known, required plant growth nutrients and particularly the micro mineral or trace elements.

We emphasized a local source of wood ash. An Oklahoma or California iris grower will hardly seek a Pennsylvania source of wood ash. However, as another example, **mature, healthy** trees from a specific Oklahoma area would be acclimated to the local soil, moisture, and environmental conditions of its particular Oklahoma growing location. Fire wood from this Oklahoma tree would provide in the resulting wood ash a concentrated source of the trace mineral elements required for healthy, vigorous iris plant growth in that same specific geographical section of Oklahoma. Please remember that we are dealing with the **minor** (excluding the major fertilizer nutrients nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash) or **trace minerals** grower's garden. YOUR local source wood ash that was derived from local healthy mature trees **should** provide you with an ample supply of the majority of all trace mineral nutrients required for **you** to realize healthier, more vigorous iris growth. Wood ash from weak, diseased trees may be partially deficient.

Remember, wood ash from healthy, mature, full-size trees (regardless of tree variety) that grew near to (as close as possible) your iris bed will match your iris bed requirements as closely as **nature** can manage. The real clincher is simply this: "For a reasonable price you can't get anything better." "Free" wood ash (discounting minimal time, travel, and effort) certainly carries the right price.

All plants and trees do **not** have the same exact trace mineral requirements or retention ability. Wood ash is such a rich, concentrated trace element source that your iris can accept whatever they require and reject the unneeded materials or surplus through their root system providing you do not kill your plants with the intended kindness of over application. As with any fertilizer, good judgment must prevail.

My personal wood ash use experience has been very **good** with iris and other plants when a one-quarter inch thick layer of dry, powdery wood ash is applied **on the soil surface at least two inches away from the plant stems or from the exposed portion of the iris rhizomes**. Wood ash applied as described above is usually dissolved by rain and disappears (except for the charcoal or unburned wood) within a month or two of application by which time I have usually repeated with another application as described provided I have the required amount of wood ash. I suggest that if **your** supply of wood ash is limited, you should preferentially treat your pink, red, orange, dark blue, or purple iris varieties first. More on blossom color effects later.

If you grow iris on "faith" and have applied wood ash as just recommended, what have you just done? What happened to the promised sophisticated analysis data? What kind of potential plant benefits together with wood ash ingredients? Why not buy and apply the commercial fertilizers as recommended by the typical soil testing techniques since the report was written to cover my iris bed?

First and foremost, you should "Feed the soil, not the plant". Consider "soil testing recommendations" as assuring a typical basic "balanced diet" provided that the report recommendations are thoroughly understood and followed while using good common sense. Trace element feedings, including the micro nutrient content of wood ash applications, can be considered as "diet supplements" or as "plant vitamin and mineral pep pills".

Example: A mature oak, maple, cherry, or black walnut tree evaporates 1,000 gals. of water a day when in full leaf (May 15 to Oct. 15 or 153 days per summer in this western Pa. location). If we ignore all bare tree (no leaves) evaporation, use 7 pounds (low) as the weight of a gallon of water, 150 full-leaf days per summer, and use **only** the last 25 summers of tree growth (totally ignoring the first 35 years of water requirements is **very** conservative), we end up with an **astounding** estimated number of pounds of water required during the estimated life of this specimen tree: $1,000 \text{ gals./day} \times 7 \text{ lbs./gal.} \times 150 \text{ days/summer} \times 25 \text{ summers of mature size evaporation} = \mathbf{26 \text{ million plus pounds of root absorbed water even by our most conservative calculation assumptions.}}$

Now then, if a trace mineral nutrient was present in the growth area soil moisture at the lowest measured concentration of **only one part by weight in a million parts**, then the tree in our example had a total lifetime root system absorption of **26 POUNDS** of this chemically pure rare nutrient (1 PPM) to use, convert, store, or discard by discharging the unneeded excess through the roots in order to maintain its healthy 60 years of regular, rapid growth.

Now then, here are the wood ash analysis results:

ACTUAL ANALYSIS OF WOOD ASH:

Sample—as received (typical furnace ash)

pH-9.5—extremely alkaline

Ash—Weight Percent	81.59*
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Volatiles & combustibles—Weight Percent	<u>18.41**</u>
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Sample—Weight Percent	100.00
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**Removed by holding the as-received furnace ash at 1,000°F. in an oxygen rich atmosphere for 24 hrs. This material is extracted due to the temperature and complete combustion and passes off in gaseous form.

This laboratory ash analysis procedure requires preparation of a pure ash sample material (listed as Ash) for use in the Emission Spectrograph.

This Ash* provided the following data:

EMMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC DATA ON CHERRY WOOD ASH

Metal or Element	Chemist's Symbol	Weight Percent	Parts per Million	Nutrient Classification
Aluminum	Al	6.0#	—	Unknown
Barium	Ba	—	1,000	Unknown
Boron	B	—	300	Micro
Calcium	Ca	10.0	—	High
Chromium	Cr	—	600	Unknown
Cobalt	Co	—	Under 100	Micro (certain specific groups of plants)
Copper	Cu	—	40	Micro
Iron	Fe	2.0	—	Micro
Lead	Pb	—	Under 100	Micro
Magnesium	Mg	2.0	—	High
Manganese	Mn	1.0	—	Micro

EMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC DATA Cont'd.

Metal or Element	Chemist's Symbol	Weight Percent	Parts per Million	Nutrient Classification
Molybdenum	Mo	—	?	Detectable only above 10 PPM
Nickel	Ni	—	400	Unknown
Potassium	K	2.9	—	Massive
Silicon	Si	25.0#	—	Unknown
Sodium	Na	0.9	—	Unknown
Strontium	Sr	0.2	—	Unknown
Titanium	Ti	1.0	—	Unknown
Uranium	U	—	Under 100	Unknown
Vanadium	V	—	Under 100	Unknown
Zirconium	Zr	—	100-1,000	Unknown

Conversion Factor: 1% by weight equals 10,000 PPM

#Very high-attributed to dirt (clay) on bark surfaces of field cut, dragged, unsplit cherry wood fuel.

The "essential" elements currently recognized by the scientific world as vital to plant growth are listed and defined below in categories of descending **quantitative** requirements. **Neither quantity nor position in these tables indicates any plant requirement preference or priority. EACH ELEMENT LISTED IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR ALL PLANT GROWTH AND EACH AND EVERY LISTED ELEMENT IS CATEGORIZED AS ESSENTIAL.**

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT REQUIREMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

Unlimited—Sources: Air and Water

Elements: Hydrogen (H) Carbon (C) Oxygen (O)

Massive—Sources: Soil, Fertilizers (usually highest tonnage per acre)

Elements: Nitrogen (N) Phosphorus (P) Potassium (K) or Potash

High—Sources: Soil, Dolomitic Limestone (provides Calcium and 13% Magnesium), Organic Sulfur (usually less tonnage per acre than the Massive Category)

Elements: Calcium (Ca) Magnesium (Mg) Sulfur (S)

Trace or Micro—Sources: Soil, WOOD ASH (ounces per sq. ft.)

Elements: Boron (B) Chlorine (Cl) Cobalt (Co) Copper (Cu)
Iron (Fe) Manganese (Mn) Molybdenum (Mo) Zinc (Zn)

Unknown—Science has not determined that any of these mineral elements are essential. However, these scientists forgot to

tell this cherry tree, and the tree alone decided these “unknowns” **were** worth retaining. **For all “unknowns” listed the sole known source was wood ash from typical dirty wood.**

Unknowns will vary with geological rock structure; soil age, type, source, and previous conditioning and usage; environmental influences (volcanoes, glaciers, water source and drainage); and last, but not least, mankind’s industrial contamination.

Studying the chart, you will note that no matter how hard I tout wood ash, some essential nutrients are totally absent, and the elements are not included in this emission spectrograph data. How do I account for this, and if the analysis is so darn accurate—why didn’t this tree **die** long ago!

My wood burning furnace combustion temperatures and the laboratory ashing technique required for the Ash* preparation would have volatilized the phosphorous, sulfur, chlorine, fluorine, and zinc originally contained in the unburned wood.

Only one micro nutrient that is recognized as essential to healthy plant growth showed up as unaccounted for or missing (less than 10 PPM) in our sample, namely, Molybdenum, symbol Mo. Since the amount required is known to be very low, it is possible that the tree had all the molybdenum it required, and that the amount fell under the instrument’s accurate measuring range of greater than 10 PPM. Under 10 PPM data would not be reported because of this known instrument limitation.

All in all, our wood ash application could be considered as a health insurance policy (trace elements) on a plant that is already well protected by sufficient typical life insurance coverage (commercial fertilizer-nitrogen-phosphorus-potash).

Fringe benefits may accrue to the user of wood ash in blossom color tones, light reflectivity, fluorescent color range, color intensity, color range, and resistance of the flower to be subject to sun fading. All this is subject to debate and to intense future research projects needed to establish the exact blossom color contributors and chemical requirements.

Elements	Predominant Chemical Salt Color
Iron	Colors some flowers pink (white hydrangeas turn pink with application of iron sulfate. Pink is red added to white).
Chromium	Salts are yellow-orange.

Elements	Predominant Chemical Salt Color
Copper	Salts are green-blue (blue hydrangeas result from copper sulfate treatment).
Manganese	Simple salts are pink while some manganese complexes are deep purple.
Nickel	Salts are green.

All colors listed above are for sunlight. Other metals and mixed metal salts can produce a full spectrum of colors in sunlight. These salts in solution in plant blossom cells will affect color, but the exact effect of a given amount of a given salt or compound has yet to be scientifically determined. Still, an old, white, washed-out rose turned to an attractive medium pink with no care other than with regular wood ash applications in my yard. Similar results occurred on a second identical bush following chelated iron applications made by my neighbor's wife in Denver. (Soil in Denver is iron deficient).

Several knowledgeable iris growers (one garden judge) vowed that one of **my** pink iris varieties was **mislabeled** because the pink blossom color was "too intense" compared to the other blooming specimens of this same iris variety seen in the Pittsburgh area. At the time, I was more interested in winning show ribbons than in disclosing any growing secrets, so I made no comments. (Do you believe that?) Additionally, I had no data on hand at that time to correlate flower success, micro nutrient content, and rhizome increase rates to wood ash application. Two years of added, fairly successful iris growing experience plus the analysis data I have presented in this article further confirm my zeal for wood ash.

SUMMARY

Applications of wood ash can be a real pep-tonic for "soil sick" iris plants. If your irises didn't need it, there is no harm done, but if those iris plants **did need micro nutrients**—well, then, the results can be spectacular and oh, **so** rewarding!

Do you really think that you'll feel guilty asking some wood burner for his wood ashes? Then Buy 'Em! Pay off the donor with a 1980 A.I.S. Membership!

Author's Note: After reading this wood ash article, my proof reader asked:

Question: Why can't I count on obtaining the required trace elements being available in the commercial fertilizer I use on my iris instead of using wood ash?

My answer: Commercial fertilizers **may** contain one or many of these trace elements, but rarely will a fertilizer producer list the included trace element content, if any, on his commercial fertilizer packages. Federal restrictions are so severe on advertising claims that the producer ignores even the known trace element claims that he could make since that would require a constant and guaranteed percentage of content in all batches and from all plant sources. To comply with Federal labeling laws the costs of testing and blending would overshadow the anticipated additional revenue that a manufacturer could anticipate by offering a bonafide "complete plant growth fertilizer" even when considering a "premium content" price.

When considering the high value of essential trace elements, wood ash becomes equally valuable pound per pound with high quality commercial fertilizers.

After this discussion, my proof reader stated this information was critical and should be inserted in the article.

(Morrie Otte's postscript in the Region 3 BULLETIN reflected his sense of humor)

... I WOOD ASH EVERY POSSIBLE PROSPECT TO JOIN THE A.I.S. ...

FAVORITE GUESTS SELECTED

Rachel Drumm reports, for the 1980 Convention Committee, that 312 different varieties received votes from conventioners as Favorite Guest Irises seen in Tulsa. The following were the top vote-getters.

Variety	Hybridizer	Votes Received
1. SUNRISE SUNSET	B. Williamson	183
2. TWIST OF FATE	C. Palmer	140
3. MYSTIQUE	J. Ghio	119
4. GOLD BURST	D. Palmer	109
5. LAWRENCE WELK	H. Danielson	106
6. IDA RED	B. Clark	96
7. THICK & CREAMY	J. Weiler	96
8. HAUNTING MUSIC	W. Moores	91
9. MICHAEL PAUL	W. E. Jones	91
10. MARTHA MIA	E. Hunt	88
11. SHAMPOO	V. Messick	87
12. GENETIC DANCER	H. Danielson	83
13. OKLAHOMA BANDIT	H. Nichols	81
14. MAUMELLE	R. Butler	80
15. MIRROR-MIRROR	J. Gibson	79

ANOTHER SOGGY SEASON or THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF IT.

Franklin Carr, NJ

The above title speaks for itself. The sub-title has two meanings. The first meaning is to weather and its second to an iris grower's spiritual level. How weather affects irises and an iris grower's spirit is well known.

This past blooming season (at peak blossom) Mother Nature gave us an exact duplicate of last year's season. Four days of rainfall and high winds, followed by high humidity.

Each spring there are record highs and lows set. One wonders if this is going to be normal weather for this area? Is it possible to have a record set for extended pleasant weather?

Following are a few "choice readings" of the past several seasons in Central New Jersey as irises began to bloom:

May 11, 1978, temperature 28 degrees with frost.

May 20, 1978, sunny and hot temperatures in 90's.

May 3, 1979, temperature 38 degrees with light frost.

May 8, 1979, temperature 88 degrees with high humidity.

According to my observations such shenanigans have been going on since 1963 when on May 1st it snowed!

Though the winter of '79-80 was considered relatively mild, February presented low temperatures in the 20's with no snow cover. March (1st) came in like a lion and set a record 4 degrees above zero. April 1st saw snow. No Spring weather here in New Jersey! Record low temperature for the date on June 9th 1980—47 degrees.

Either a low, low temperature or an extreme high one. No moderate range.

Isn't it enough to dampen and chill one's spirit?

After reviewing these records of drastic weather conditions, appreciation and sympathy can easily go out to convention; tour and show committees that are engaged in "pin-pointing" "normal blooming dates". What a task and spiritual drain!

During the rainy days of May, 1979 as we gazed out and saw soggy blossoms our spirits were lightened by news from Rome and Orleans. Our "Serene Highness" bloomed beautifully in the Vatican Gardens. Stalks were cut and placed on the altar of the Pope's private chapel. The

Pope remarked: "How beautiful!" Also we received a medal from the horticultural society of Orleans, France for the value of our total contribution with a collection of seven irises.

During the rainy days of this past May as we gazed out and saw more soggy blossoms our spirits were elevated by the news that our "Queen's Jubilee" placed fifth in Florence, Italy and won the Louisa Branch award for the best branched iris in the competition.

With all the depressing elements the seasons do have their rewards.

Let us all hope that it will improve for coming iris years, especially for St. Louis in 1981.

CORRECTIONS

The parentage of SUNRISE SUNSET included in a garden review in the July 1980 BULLETIN was incorrect. The iris is from a cross of LAUNCHING PAD X GEORGIA GIRL.

In photo credits for the July 1980 issue, the picture on page 28, upper right, should have been credited to George Waters; Leland Welsh was the photographer of the illustration on page 48, upper right (not 28) as stated. Sorry; that was 2 too much!

DIRECTORY NOTES

The most recent information about AIS services and policies may be found in the *AIS BULLETIN* issues noted below.

Advertising Rates	every issue
Affiliation Requirements	October 1980
Bulletin Deadlines, copy and ads	every issue
Communication Information	p. 1, every issue
Exhibition Supplies	October 1980
Library-Publications	every issue
Slide Collection Listing	p. 56, July 1980
Youth Contest Rules	October 1980

VARIETAL COMMENTS FROM TULSA

BULLETIN invited 1980 tour garden owners to review irises blooming there, post-convention.

What You Should Have Seen

Ron Mullin

Mother Nature thought it would be a good idea if the guest irises in the 1980 Convention gardens did not bloom until after the visitors had gone, but she did put on a majestic display for those of us who were so disappointed by her earlier lack of cooperation. The bloom season was long, the number of blossoms was overwhelming, and the entire season became an awesome spectacle.

We were dazzled by irises which are so different that they'll not be mistaken for something else. There were the two Gibson fancy plicatas, QUEEN IN CALICO and RUSTIC DANCE. The former is done in pink and violet and the latter is light yellow very heavily speckled with rust color. DEANNA DARCY (J. Meek) is an orchid pink edged on the falls with a deeper shade of this color. Mary Dunn's MIDWAY is violet and white and is midway between a plicata and a self. The white spots appear in the stands and the falls of this well branched newcomer. Sterling Innerst could not have chosen a more perfect name for his MOUNTAIN DEW. It is exactly the color of the soft drink.

George Shoop has a wild colored flower in FANCY TALES. It is three distinct colors! The stands are an off white and the falls are brilliant orange yellow halfway down, with the remainder of the falls a deep purple. To top this off, there are tangerine beards. Startling! LILAC SWAN (Bennett Jones) has deep orchid stands over white falls. The contrast is great and the standard coloring is like no other. Joe Ghio's ARTISTE has toasty peach standards with white falls edged the same color and set off by a bright red beard. IRENE NELSON (Bennett Jones) set herself in a class of elite irises this year with the contrast in color she displayed. The standards are a deep lavender purple and the falls are a light lavender edged in the deeper color and contrasted with a red beard.

INTUITION (Ghio) was magnificent with deep blue flowers and a brownish beard. The branching was superb. CHERRY SMOKE (D. Meek) is the color of black red cherries and is outstanding. Shoop's RINGO is an amoena in grape purple with the falls edged white. Jim McWhirter gave the perfect name to his iris BRANDY. It is just that color and very different from anything else available. The heavily ruffled PREMONITION (Ghio) has light blue stands with a flush of darker blue and falls of deep blue edged in lighter blue; it was very floriferous and pretty.

Blends have never been a favorite with me, but that was before I saw some of the outstanding blended colors on the guest plants for 1980. Heading the list is probably the most exquisitely colored iris I know about. HEAVENLY HARMONY (Hamblen) may not grab you when it first opens, but when the violet fades to a soft orchid and the pink blended into it becomes deeper, it becomes hauntingly beautiful. SHEER POETRY (D. Palmer) is another that is superb. Perfectly formed flowers of caramel yellow are flushed with deeper yellow, tan, and lavender. LILAC FLAME (Hamblen) is probably a self, but the perfect blending of lilac and pink into one unusual shade is unequaled. The is a new color set off by a smoky red beard. Bob Dunn's FORBIDDEN should never be excluded from any garden. This blue-grey blend has just enough green tones in it to give it a special color. Great branching and healthy plants assure an abundance of easily viewed, different flowers.

Potential show winners were everywhere in the gardens this spring, but probably nothing surpassed ANGELIC LIGHT (Ev. Kegerise) in that area. Every stalk showed three open flowers at once and not one flower on the plant interfered with any other. The blue white perfection of each flower would have swept any show. COOL RETREAT (Plough) would have been another show winner. The blue stands are in strong contrast to the white falls on this one. BRIDE'S LACE (Julander) was lacy perfection in white with a bright reddish beard. PACIFIC MIST (Schreiners) joined the parade of potential show winners. The light medium blue flowers also won the fragrance contest hands down.

BICENTENNIAL (Ghio) was a knockout in yellow stands and white falls edged yellow and very ruffled. HEAVEN HELPED (Waltermire) was heavily substantenced magnificence in white with pink beards. SUPERSTITION (Schreiners) won the contest as the best dark colored iris. It would have been a show bench winner too. DUALTONE (O. Brown) has light apricot standards and very pale lavender falls. CLEAR VISION (Carr) has light blue buds which open to very lacy white flowers. The contrast of bud and flower on an individual stalk is a pretty sight. LOVE CHILD (Knocke) was a

tall, well branched plant with pink orchid stands over red violet falls. **MIRRORED SKY** (D. Palmer) is perfection in light blue—a true light blue. **LEMON LYRIC** (D. Meek) is another yellow and white combination, but the yellow veining in the white sets this one apart. All season I admired Gatty's **G31-1** with heavily subenced flowers of white set off by a tangerine beard and lace galore. It is now named **SYMMETRY** and is certainly worthy of being named. Every variety listed in this and the previous paragraph was of the three-open-at-once group. Each would set the show enthusiast's heart to fluttering.

For those who want long lasting garden performance, the following are some you won't want to miss! **DREAM AFFAIR** (Gatty) in creamy yellow; **LEMON PUNCH** (Gatty) in a deeper shade of yellow than **DREAM AFFAIR**; **MEADOW ROSE** (O. Brown) in rosy tones; **GOLD GALORE** (Schreiners) in shades of deep, non-fading gold; probably the first of this color which does not fade in Oklahoma sunshine, **STAGE DOOR** (Corlew) in orchid elegance, **GENEROSITY** (Keppel) a creamy yellow, almost amoena, that won the hearts of everyone who saw it; **SAN JOSE** (Ghio) caramel and violet blend that gets better and better as the flower ages and **CORAL STRAND** (Niswonger) peachy pink amoena that blooms and blooms and then blooms some more.

Others which don't fit exactly into the above categories but which do deserve recognition were: **BEVERLY SILLS** (Hager) the magnificent pink that is flawless, **LACED COTTON** (Schreiners) blue white and laced beauty, **INFERNO** (Schreiners) the red that CAN and DOES grow in Oklahoma, **RAVENHILL** (Carr) outstanding dark violet, **FROSTY JEWELS** (Burch) pink and pretty, **COFFEE HOUSE** (Ghio) brown excellence, **VIOLET CLASSIC** (Zurbrigg) violet with white spray pattern on hafts and falls, **CHIEF WAUKESHA** (Blodgett) a red of merit, **WILD BERRY** (Hamner) berry colored plicata with a different pattern and very pretty, **WARM EMBRACE** (P. Dyer) delightful pink with all excellent qualities, (I'm proud to have supplied its name) **TARDE** (B. Dunn) the darkest flower seen, **MALAYSIA** (Ghio) superbrown that gets better as it fades, **NORDIC PRINCE** (Tams) red violet self, **MAGNIFIQUE** (Ghio) chalk white with tangerine beard and super substance, **ISLE OF CAPRI** (Spahn) peachy orange, **WILD WEST** (Ghio) deep brown, **LIEBESTRAUN** (Spahn) orange pink stands with lighter falls centered white, **MISTRESS** (Keppel) the newest pink plicata, **JAMAICAN SUNSET** (D. Mohr) deep gold stands and violet falls with gold hafts and rim, **LOVELY KAY** (Hamblen) flaring deep pink, **TROPIC STAR** (Shockey) white with gold hafts and beard, **VOLARE** (Corlew) yellow, **BLAZING SADDLES** (P. Dyer) smooth variegata, **ORITAM** (Hoffmeister) lighter toned variegata, and **MYSTIQUE** (Ghio) neglecta supreme which

got four stars in every category.

My favorite seedling of the year was Hamblen's H75-103A an amoena of deep pink with creamy white stands flushed on the ribs with deep pink. Hamblen also had the SDB that was my favorite of the new things. APRICOT ELF has excellent form and is a pink apricot color that is new to the SDBs. Varner's ANN DASCH was my favorite Siberian. The mottled coloring makes this one really special. Chowning's BRYCE LEIGH was my choice of the Louisianas because the orchid coloring seems so unique and is so beautiful. Border bearded irises had a hard time staying in class this year. My favorite was Keppel's DESPERADO. This is a multi-colored plicata that is completely different from anything else. Boushay's IMPELLING is a ruffled orange flushed pink. SOMETHING SPECIAL (Hager) was pink perfection again this year. The IBs were in full bloom for the convention, and I agree with the many who commented that Hamblen's RASPBERRY BLUSH stole the show. Of course, the iris which seemed closest to me was the well branched, heavily substanted beauty of blue with deeper beard from Melba Hamblen. To me it is excellent and an improvement of the almost perfect BLUE LUSTER, but perhaps I'm prejudiced since the flower is named RON.

Already I can think of super flowers which were omitted such as Moore's DANTE'S INFERNO, Roderick's COPPER CLASSIC, Muhlestein's LOVELY LOIS, Bill Jones' STORMY SEAS, Bill Bledsoe's ABOUT TIME, Hamblen's SUN FIRE, SILENT MAJESTY, and BONNEVILLE SURF, Rudolph's LEMON CREST and THELMA RUDOLPH, Mohr's VALENTINE ROSES, Keppel's VIVIEN, Peterson's SPANISH HARLEM and LE SEDNA, and Plough's LIVING DESERT, but the article has to stop somewhere. I'm just sorry you were not here to enjoy the season. Oklahoma 80! was great fun, but Oklahoma Bloom season 80! was really spectacular.

TALL BEARDED THAT STARRED

C. J. and Kitty Lack

When our garden reached full bloom, it was hard to select the best tall bearded irises, but we will name a few that we found outstanding. Robert Dunn's STYLELITE certainly goes into that category. Perry Dyer's SOFT SPOKEN had six nice bloom stalks.

Three of Joe Ghio's were excellent. COFFEE HOUSE had five very large bloom stalks; PREMONITION only had three stalks, but we both liked it; SAN JOSE offered eight very large stalks that really made a show.

Jim Gibson's QUEEN IN CALICO is one that we must have for ourselves. If it is so different and colorful! Melba Hamblen's SUNDAY CHIMES only had one stalk, but it was so beautiful!

We enjoyed Bernard Hamner's TROUSSEAU LACE, and Mary Herd's MISS KITTY had lots of flowers and lasted a very long time. Alva Hickerson's seedling 73-11-1 really outdid itself with very nice stalks.

Tom Magee's COLORADA SUNSHINE was a mound of bloom. This just says "Sunshine!" David Mohr's JAMACIAN SUNSET was amazing; what a show! Ken Mohr's SQUARE DANCE was another very showy one.

We give high marks to Cleo Palmer's FAIRY ARTISTRY. Dorothy Palmer's Seedling 2776B was a very pretty blue with blue beards on very large flowers. We fell in love with this and hope she introduces it. We also like her SERENE DUET and TENDER THOUGHT.

Gordon Plough's RAIN COUNTRY grows on one and offered nine stalks to enjoy. Elvan Roderick's RUFFLED BALLET was delightful. Schreiners GOLD GALORE was beautiful; INFERNO was one of the best reds. Two other Schreiner irises were outstanding: MASTER TOUCH and the extraordinary LACE COTTON. We'd never seen one as lacy all over as the latter.

Ken Shaver's CLAVERACK was excellent, as was Howard Shockey's TROPIC STAR. The late William Bledsoe's SUGAR TREE has been very good for two years.

Mary Louise Dunderman's DOLL RIBBONS, a Miniature Tall Bearded, was one large bouquet and very pretty. Two of Frank Chowning's Louisiana irises were excellent: ANN CHOWNING and GOLD RESERVE.

Ed.—In other discussions, The Lacks bemoaned a sad fact that follows conventions, when hybridizers send instructions on disposal of the guested plants. "We know the sad time is going to come when we have to destroy some of the seedlings that we've fallen in love with. That's life!"

In a letter accompanying her post-convention iris comments, Jaymie Heathcock reflected upon the convention, later guest-iris-digging, and preparation for the local Tulsa rhizome sale and wrote. . . "One of my neighbors wanted to know why we knocked ourselves out to do all this. (I think she had already decided we are all a bit touched.) It would be difficult to explain adequately what a joy it was to have all these new things to see and enjoy. It was exciting to see what was new each morning—and what new surprise might be opening for the first time in Tulsa. It was work; it was worry; it was exciting; it was a joy—and much fun was had by all!"

Philbrook Art Center's Post-Convention Bloom

Dr. Henry C. Mohr, KY

We were fortunate in being able to stay over in Tulsa for three days following the convention to enjoy the iris flowering as it approached its peak.

At Philbrook Art Center, Sunday's bloom showed Ken Mohr's TB BOARDWALK with three show stalks, each having three open flowers. It is a tall neglecta, well-ruffled and floriferous.

WARM EMBRACE (Perry Dyer) is a deep pink color with lots of ruffling and lace on strong stalks of top quality. MISS PERSONALITY (Sexton) has snow-white standards with delicate blue washing over the surface of the falls: Excellent! WINGS OF DREAMS (Woodside) is a much underrated iris which put on a real show, unfortunately *after* the Convention.

HOMEcoming QUEEN (Sexton) is a sensational toasted melon color with a deep orange beard and lacy, well-formed flowers. STYLELITE (R. Dunn) is a flaring paper-white with yellow beard. Tall stalks are well branched. FULL CRY (Varner) has clear yellow standards and violet falls bordered brown; it is well-branched and attractive! FLAREUP (Ghio) is a tall, well-branched brown, lacy with yellow hafts and gold beard.

The weather on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday was excellent. Warm temperatures (in the 80's) brought the flowers out quickly. Many visitors continued to visit Philbrook and peak bloom was probably Wednesday or Thursday, May 7 or 8.

Rhodeside Comments

Burdella Rhodes

Some of the outstanding irises that bloomed after the 1980 AIS convention at the Rhodeside Garden that were admired by visitors included SUPERSTITION (Schreiners '77) a very dark maroon black iris and BY NIGHT (Schreiners '76) a dark violet black iris. MOUNTAIN DEW (Innerst) lived up to its name, and the color is just like the drink, a very pretty green.

Several pink irises that were admired were INSTANT LOVE (Hamblen '77), STORY BOOK (Corlew '80), WARM EMBRACE (P. Dyer '80), CHANTEUSE (Gatty '80) and SATIN GOWN (Gatty '78). RAIN COUNTRY (Plough '79), a violet iris with 1/8 darker edging around the falls, very

pretty. BEL CANTO (Hager '80), a lavender iris; LEDA'S LOVER (Hager '80), a ruffled white with pale yellow beards and IGLOO (Hager '78), a blue white iris with pale yellow beards, appealed. SKY JACK (Nelson '79) has large light blue standards and darker blue falls, blue beards. BARELY BLUE (Kergerise '79) is a nice light blue self with a white beard. MASTER DESIGNER (Boushay '79) is a lilac with light orange coloring at the half, orange beards. HOMECOMING QUEEN (Sexton '78) is a beautiful ruffled peach iris with orange beards. LATITUDE (Nelson '80), a light blue self, and RIVER PATROL (Stahly '78), a violet blue, were both well liked. ARTISTE (Ghio '78) has brandy peach standards with white falls boarded with the brandy peach, red beards and CREME DE CREME (Ghio '80) is a warm white and yellow iris.

Two browns of Ghio's that were liked were COFFEE HOUSE (Ghio '77) and WILD WEST (Ghio '79). PATINA (Keppel '78), a beautiful brown plicata, was very much liked as was COSMIC LADY (Keppel '80) a mimosa yellow lavender and tan blend. MARY OF MAGADALA (Hunt '77 AR) a red-violet iris with the falls more of a reddish gray was very pretty during the convention and a week after. CAPITALITE (R. Dunn '78), a cream color with brown plicata markings, on falls and M75-544A (M. Dunn) were almost the same, the latter with lighter brown plicata markings. WILD BERRY (Hamner '78) is a beautiful mulberry plicata. Another plicata that was liked was #1111 (D. Mohr), a red plicata with yellow on the underneath side of the falls. #23-76 (Niswonger), a light blue iris with a blue beard, and #660-20 (Innerst), another blue iris with a blue beard, were appealing. OXBLOOD GEM (Rendenbo '78), is a good red iris with an orange beard.

GOLD TRIMMINGS (Schreiners '75) a yellow with white in the center of the falls, gold beard, is still very much liked. LEMON PUNCH (Gatty '79), a beautiful yellow, and LEMON GLITTER (D. Palmer '78), a ruffled white and lemon, were both well liked. ORITAM (Hoffmeister '77) has yellow-orange standards and red-brown falls. FAR GALAXIES (Babson '78) is a beautiful white and purple plicata. BRIGHT OUTLOOK (D. Palmer '79), a ruffled medium yellow self, and TENDER THOUGHT (D. Palmer '76), a laced raspberry self, were both admired.

Three BBs that were liked were SHAZAM (Ensminger), a blend of lilac-purple markings with no two irises marked the same, SOFT SPOKEN (P. Dyer '80), a light lilac with lightly ruffled falls, and GILLIGAN (Cromwell), a brown iris.

Some of the Siberians that were popular were DARK DESIRE (Varner '74) and V-777 (Varner); both have very large violet flowers. BUTTER AND SUGAR (McEwen '77) has white standards and yellow falls, and STAR

CLUSTER (Hager '78), another with white standards and yellow falls, are both very pretty. SPARKLE (Hager '78) was popular with its pale mauve standards and paler mauve falls, veined darker mauve, and gold signals.

Louisianas that were admired were ANN CHOWNING (Chowning '77), a current red self with a brilliant gold signal, and HARLAND K. RILEY (McMillan '74), a yellow iris with brown veining. ALIBI (McMillan '76), a blue white iris fading to a pure white was nice, as was THIS I LOVE (Chowning '76), a rose-pink self with gold signals.

More Post-Convention Stars Listed

Jaymie Heathcock, OK

Jaymie was among the 1980 Convention garden hosts who responded to our pleas for news of the tall bearded varieties that bloomed too late to be seen on tour. Listed alphabetically by hybridizer, her comments, she reports, also reflect the opinions of both irisarians and general visitors who came to her garden later. She adds that all of the outstanding varieties listed had good branching, bud count and general growth.

Boushay: MASTER DESIGNER—violet with lighter center, coral pink beards, and ruffles

JUBIL HEART—creamy peach pink blend, quite eye-catching color

Burger: TIMELY TREASURE—lacy pinkish orchid

DREAM ROMANCE—deeper orchid and lace, both with red beards

Corlew: STORYBOOK—really pink, with falls that stand o-u-t!, edged with lace, like a little girl's party dress

ACCLAMATION—stately bright yellow

FIRST BLUSH—much paler peach/cream/pink, made a beautiful clump

Dyer: PRIDE OF OKLAHOMA—good dark smooth non-fading red; on one bloomstalk, for instance, the first bloom opened day after convention (naturally), last bloom closed Memorial Day; with this performance, everyone got to see it.

WARM EMBRACE—even on first year bloom, this was a favorite, a clump is a show-stopper, a good smooth pink

C-9—A new talent waiting in the wings; most people compared this with BEVERLY SILLS, which was blooming same time, close by; same good light pink coloring, ruffles,

- style, and personality. (Just found out this will be named TRIPLE CROWN—good name!)
- Gatty: LEMON PUNCH—good clear ruffled lemon yellow, F71-3—a pale pink, slight bluish cast, bright coral beard, with lighter spot under beard—two confections side by side
- Ghio: SAN JOSE—that blue blaze on the brown falls got most viewers
COFFEE HOUSE—most people like the browns, and they *did* like this
CREME DE CREME—my favorite of his guests, white with gold touches, late—but that way it could be enjoyed more
- Gibson: BLUE STACCATO and RANCHO ROSE performed and were liked best of his things
- Hager: BEVERLY SILLS—well, what do you say that hasn't already been said!!! Like the lady, she gives an excellent performance, captivates her audience, and makes you wish for encores!
IGLOO—big blocky ruffled white—held its own next to "Bubbles."
MIRROR IMAGE—a "wow" from across the yard, clean clean dark purple plic
- Hamblen: INSTANT LOVE—ruffled lacy pink
EVENING ECHO—dark blue beards set off the pale blue, both well named
- Hamner: HEATHER BLUSH—pink/violet blend, was one of the first stops for most people
- Jones: TREVI FOUNTAIN—nice creamy peach
- Kegerise: BARELY BLUE—just as it says, was a late blooming beautiful clump
- McWhirter: WEDDING PARTY—medium orchid, frothy with lace, a favorite
BRANDY—everyone stopped for this one; if brandies have vintage years, this must have been a *very* good year!
- Michel: TRES ELEGANTE—a pale lavender child of GRAND WALTZ, and for me a better grower, lace and more lace
- K. Mohr: CELESTIAL BALLET—white with the palest touch of blue in the throat
SUNSHINE EXPRESS—an eye-catching ruffled yellow self, bright
- Palmer: MIRRORING SKY—perfectly named ruffled light blue

- Palmer: SHEER POETRY—hard to describe, a hit both years here in my garden, buff with orchid touches and ruffles, it has “zazzle”
- Roderick: PLEATED GOWN—exactly, in yellow, and charming
ERLENE RICHESON—peachy pink and appealing
- Shoop: RINGO—this one you saw from across the yard, purple amoena, white edged falls and ruffles
- Schreiners: STORM CENTER/BY NIGHT/SUPERSTITION—they all like the dark ones
- Waltermire: CW74-17 (pink) and CW77-1 (blue)—from a new Region 22 hybridizer; she had several nice things guested at this convention and will be interesting to watch
- Weiler: FRESNO CALYPSO—bright, bright orange that you couldn’t miss
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INTERNATIONAL SMALL IRIS COMPETITION

The grapevine informs us that Franz Kurzmann is retiring from the competition in Vienna, but what this means for the competition, we have not been informed. In the meantime, rules for the new international competition have been put together by the committee of Hooker Nichols, Gus Sindt and Jim Fry, and are presented in the summer MEDIANITE. This seems a golden opportunity for all breeders of small bearded irises. For further information, consult Hooker Nichols, Box 702, Woodward, OK 73801.

Marion Ackerman 1900-1980

Marion Ackerman passed away February 12th. She is survived by her husband, Jay, and a daughter, Marjorie Thrum. Marion and Jay celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary last year. Marion was a lovely lady in every sense of the word, and she liked and enjoyed people. From 1954 on, she attended seventeen national conventions and came with Jay to several fall Board meetings. Irisarians will fondly remember the pleasures of visiting with Marion, her lively intellect and ready wit. She was always kind, thoughtful, generous in her encouragement, and especially to young members in the Society. Some people are special. Marion was very special.

Carol Ramsey

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY SHOW SUPPLIES

The official show supplies of the American Iris Society are available for all shows after approval of the show schedule by the Exhibitions Chairman. No orders for supplies will be shipped prior to this approval. For best service, secure approval and order supplies at least two months prior to the proposed show date. Supplies will be shipped by United Parcel Service whenever possible. If you use a Post Office Box or Rural Route address, include phone number and/or street location to insure prompt delivery of your package. Prices listed include postage and handling. Any money sent for postage will be considered a donation to the AIS. Make all checks payable to the AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY.

Entry Tags. (250 per pack)	\$5.50 per pack
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Clerk's Reports. For recording winners in each Class, Group or Section. Specify if for Classified Show or Cultivar Show (new). (50 sheets per pad)	\$2.00 per pad
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Award Ribbons. 2" x 8". Imprinted with AIS Seal and Premium Award. Blue, first; Red, second; White, third; Pink, Honorable Mention. (20 per pack)	\$4.50 per pack
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Award Ribbons. 1 1/2" x 6". Similar to above, except smaller. Good for Median and Dwarf Shows. (20 per pack)	\$3.75 per pack
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Large Rosettes. Three streamers 2" x 10". AIS Seal on middle streamer, American Iris Society on one outside streamer and the other outside streamer imprinted.

Best Specimen of Show	\$1.75 each
Best Seedling of Show	\$1.75 each
Best Arrangement of Show	\$1.75 each
Horticultural Sweepstakes	\$1.75 each
Artistic Sweepstakes	\$1.75 each

Section Rosettes. Two streamers 2" x 10". American Iris Society on one streamer and the other imprinted Best Specimen in Section.	\$1.25 each
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Small Rosettes. May be awarded for Best of Group or for any special award. Two streamers 1 1/2" x 8". American Iris Society on one streamer and the other imprinted.

Special Award, Horticulture Division	\$1.15 each
Special Award, Artistic Division	\$1.15 each

Youth Division Rosettes. Two streamers 1 1/2" x 8". American Iris Society on one streamer and the other imprinted.

Best Specimen, Youth Division	\$1.15 each
Best Arrangement, Youth Division	\$1.15 each
Horticultural Sweepstakes, Youth Division	\$1.15 each
Artistic Sweepstakes, Youth Division	\$1.15 each

AIS Seal Stamps. Oval shape, slightly larger than a half dollar. Official AIS Seal on silver ground. Offered again after being unavailable for some time.

(50 per pack)	\$2.50 per pack
	5 packs for \$10.00

Seedling Ballots (1980 Revision). For voting the Exhibition Certificate. One should be given to each AIS Judge visiting the Show. Please destroy stock of previous revisions and re-order as needed.

No Charge

Invitation to join the American Iris Society. Give to prospective members visiting the Show.

No Charge

Silver and Bronze Medals. Not engraved. One Silver and one Bronze Medal per calendar year will be supplied without cost for any one show presented by an AIS Affiliate. All others are at listed price. Orders for Medals, both paid and at no charge, should be forwarded with the completed Show Report. DO NOT ORDER MEDALS WITH OTHER SUPPLIES.

\$9.25 each

Order from
Glenn F. Corlew, Chairman
Exhibitions Committee
2988 Cherry Lane
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Our congratulations to our BULLETIN printer, Agnihotra Press, on the national award they received for their excellence in graphic presentation! It is illustrated in p. 120 of COMMUNICATION ARTS magazine for July-August. Another job well done.

OBITUARY

D. Olen Rawdon, May 12, 1980. RVP Region 6 1974-1976



Domestic News

Fred Stephenson, Editor

IRISES FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Celeste (Mrs. Charles) Cox, Region 4, writes that irises from their garden are to be used in the gardens of the White House. Park Service Personnel visited the Cox garden during the iris bloom season and selected quite a few nice ones. The iris will be grown in tubs in government greenhouses and will be moved to the gardens at bloom time. Next spring should provide a most delightful display for visitors and the public. (Ed. Note: For a number of years there was a nice display of iris in the White House gardens but were ordered to be removed by a First Lady who claimed she detested the iris. For political reasons this "Lady" will remain unnamed!)

OVERNIGHT GARDEN SUCCESS

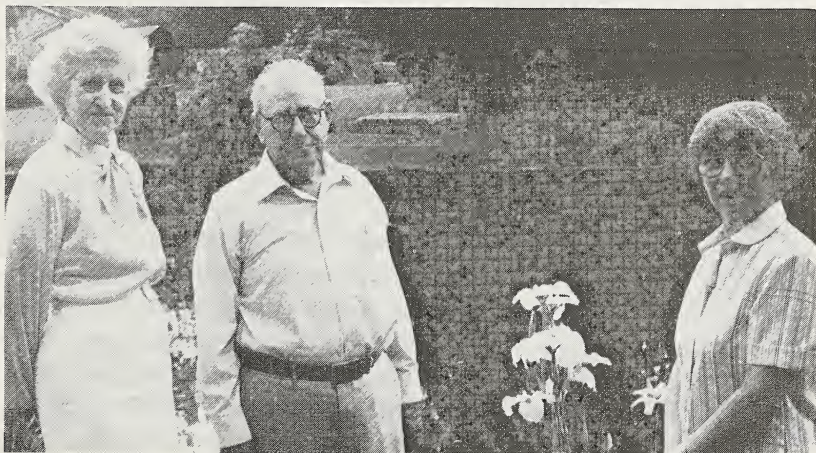
As a feature of the Carolina Mountains Iris Society's Annual Iris Show, a landscaped iris garden was created in the Ashville (N.C.) Mall. Bert Livingston of Swannona created the garden overnight, using a technique developed for a TV gardening show he hosted in Florida for many years.

The garden consisted of a 16 foot length of natural cypress picket fencing which provided a background for twelve red rhododendrons offset by two green cedar trees. Fifteen pink azaleas were placed directly in front of these, along with six hundred salmon, pink and white petunias. The focal point of the garden was white birdbath in the center of the area. Around this were whole clumps of iris in full bloom. Other iris and small, low spreading green shrubs were used to flank each side. Pine bark mulch was used to cover the entire area.

SOUTH CAROLINA PURSUES TITLE OF J. I. STATE

From the Summerville (N.C.) Journal of June 6, 1980 we learn *"The two Summerville flower fanciers" (Elsie Grimsley and Ginny Burton) "have a special feeling for iris and together, they have the first test garden in the United States for a species of that flower—the Japanese iris. Last weekend growers and lovers of iris from five states gathered—for a weekend of activities related to iris."*

Activities started on Friday with a Judges' Training session conducted by Adolph J. Vogt, Region 7, attended by forty persons. Fifty one enthusiasts gathered on Saturday for a tour of Meadowlake Gardens in Hendersonville. Forty three continued on to Magnolia Gardens near Charleston and the plantings of J. Drayton Hastie (See January 1980 BULLETIN). Throughout the day, Saturday, a Japanese Iris Flower Show was held at the Community Hut, featuring flowers from 20 exhibitors. Also shown were thirty Japanese iris seedlings by South Carolina hybridizers John Wood and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Knight.



Ginny Burton, Adolph Vogt and Elsie Grimsley admire one of Adolph's seedlings at the Test Garden.

MEMORIAL PLACED

Mr. Bernard Jones, Secretary, reports that the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society has placed a copy of THE WORLD OF IRISES in the Library of the City of Kalamazoo in memory of Mr. Olen Rawdon, former RVP, Region 6. In addition, a donation was made to the AIS Youth Award Fund.

WINNERS WIN MORE

The Pittsburgh Iris and Daylily Society certainly fulfills the objective of using the iris shows to promote the iris. A feature of their 28th Annual Free Iris Show is the awarding of Gift Certificates to all the Blue Ribbon winners who have exhibited five or more iris. For this show there were 85 Gift Certificates donated by 25 commercial growers. In redeeming the Certificates, in most cases, that person must remit postage to the grower. In doing so it is hoped that additional irises will be ordered. The person winning the fewest ribbons gets first choice, on up to the person having the most ribbons. This encourages exhibition of many top quality specimens.

In return for the Gift Certificates, catalogs and lists of the commercial gardens are on display making the ordering of iris more convenient. At the show, surplus rhizomes from individual members are offered for sale to the public. The resulting funds are used to provide and maintain various public plantings.

WHAT'S NEW?

When reading through old issues of the BULLETIN, one is impressed by the fact that so many things that are problems today were problems back thirty years ago. I noted that the matter of non-replies to letters ranked near the top then, just as it does now. Maybe we have improved to a very small degree! At that time a reply of about 25 % was considered "normal". Today we may expect around 30 %. I believe it is reasonable to assume that an RVP would have more than average interest in the affairs of the Society and would be willing to do something about them, but experience has indicated that this is not a valid assumption. What will it take to get the RVPs and others to reply to requests for information?

Your Domestic News Editor's offer of free iris rhizomes for letters relating to this problem and possible solutions in the January BULLETIN has had no takers. What does this tell us? Frankly, I do not know.

Looking ahead, I can anticipate complaints about certain groups getting all the publicity and others getting none. The answer is very simple. Those who submit news are the ones who get mentioned. If you feel slighted this can be overcome by seeing that news from your area gets submitted. No member has to rely on anyone else to submit items. Feel free to send in your own report. Your Domestic News Editor will check and evaluate each item for possible use in this column. I'll look forward to hearing from you.



International News

Bee Warburton, Editor

SWITZERLAND—BASEL'S G-80

The Swiss G-80 was called a "Nature Show" but as the English version descriptive booklet said, "An exhibition of nature is also an exhibition of Man." It was a horticultural celebration planned to surround the city of Basel with activities of many sorts, from May to October. The whole city was spruced up for the occasion, with coordinated facilities and activities throughout the historic and the modern parts of the city.

The annual meeting of the Swiss Iris and Lily Friends was an important event in this extraordinary celebration. As part of it, the historic and educational garden originally designed by Helen von Stein, the Grafin von Zeppelin, some years ago and furnished with her gift of plants from a collection put together with loving thought over many years was fittingly used, along with the rose planting, to show "How greatly the cultivated varieties differ from the original forms."

Most happily, the banquet inaugurating the meeting honored the Countess for this great contribution, and after the toasts and the speeches, she was borne away in triumph in a gorgeous bright red antique car. (In my pleasure at the sight I quite forgot to find out its make!)

The unique iris display, in whose maintenance she is assisted by Milan Blazek of the Botanical Garden of Pruhonice, Czechoslovakia, covers a large flat area backed on the south by a rise of land on which are planted great drifts of smaller bearded irises including masses of pink of lovely effect.

On the other side of the main planting education display beds show Siberians, bearded parents and offspring featuring SNOW FLURRY with PURISSIMA and THAIS and other important combinations, various species

and groups developed from them, various shapes of iris flowers, and even a bed of other Iridaceae including *Babiana*, *Tritoma*, *Homeria*, *Xiphium* and *Xiphioides*. A longer bed displayed various species showing the range of the genus—*flavescens*, *kashmiriana*, *pallida* var. *illyrica*, *cecgialti* Loppio, *tectorum*, *graminea*, *setosa*, *longipetala*, *innominata*, *wilsonii*, *sibirica* and *sanguinea* (*orientalis*), and *chrysographes*.

In the level area, each separate color class occupies a long bed in which the most ancient are followed by increasingly improved varieties to introductions of the middle 1960s. For example, the whites finish off with IRENKA (Blazek 1966), the amoenas with VISITING NURSE (1966) and LILAC CHAMPAGNE, and the yellow amoena at JESSE VIETTE (1960).

In these beds I saw for the first time the luminata variety HAVELBERG, for which Dr. Peter Werckmeister named the gene considered by him, contrary to the general consensus, to be separate from the gene for plicata. Its companion is HAVELSEE (Werckmeister 1966). In any case, these are more refined than are the Sass patterns of MOONLIT SEA, FAIRY FANCY, BERTHA GERSDORFF, etc., and I will be glad to have some to grow here for experimental purposes.

It is hoped that the G-80 sparked an updating of these historical beds, but on the other hand, the point is well made without further updating. Moreover, the tall beardeds may be seen in other horticultural displays of the exhibition.

The most notable garden featuring irises is on the opposite side of the small lake with fountain in front of the Restaurant Migros, a large building with outdoor as well as indoor restaurant capacities and adequate conference rooms for meetings and private banquets. Here the meetings of the SILF (Swiss Iris and Lily Friends) took place, and from here it is a short walk across the bridges to the Swiss Society's display garden planted with irises and other perennials by Dorothe Schroeter.

Among the tall beardeds blooming here were President Stahel's bright yellow BEAU VILLAGE, GROSSE ZITRONE (Steffen '55), BUFFY, MYSTIC SHADOWS, ODYSSEY, BALLEYHOO, NIGHT OWL, WINTER MAGIC, FUJI'S MANTLE and MELLOW MOOD. Medians for earlier bloom included DRUMMER BOY, the fine pale blue with deep blue dashes in its falls, and still in bloom, HOCUS POCUS, a beautifully shaped deep blue and brown standard dwarf. For rebloom Dorothe had used LOVELY AGAIN, her favored rebloom parent, and a group of her most reliable reblooming seedlings from LOVELY AGAIN.

Among other types of irises in this garden, the Siberian GATINEAU was magnificent on the lake edge, as was *I. versicolor* KERMESINA looking its

bright red-violet best. In the shallow water at the edge of the lake were a number of pseudacorus plants in bloom, including the large golden-flowered BEURON, one of Eckard Berlin's three registered tetraploids—the others were probably there but I couldn't distinguish the labels. Here in Massachusetts the foliage tops six feet and the stalks only three feet tall, probably because they require water to stand in.

AND ON TO GARDENS IN BIELS

Our hostess had planned another trip, to visit the Spinner's in Biels, and there we found the Kurzmanns, and were all treated to a delicious luncheon by Mrs. Spinner. Dr. Spinner's home garden is a collection of interesting iris types, with a great many medians and a chicken wire pen for a family of turtles including a large pair and their small progeny. Inside the house another delightful surprise awaited, a magnificent collection of museum-quality mineral specimens, and on the walls fine drawings, and a collection of iris prints from ancient gardening magazines.

Dr. Spinner is responsible for another most unusual garden. He lives and gardens in a community of homes on the side of a hill that overlooks the city. Across the hill is a walkway, and a part of this that commands a fine view of the old city, Dr. Spinner has landscaped with terraces of irises and companion plants. The bearded irises include many dwarfs and intermediates for a long season of bloom. Vamp is there with the maiden pink, *Dianthus deltoides*, a combination of maroon and bright pink that I have always cherished. Looking particularly lovely at the time of our visit were Emissary, an excellent smooth and lacy light blue with tangerine beards; and Chief Justice, with ivory yellow standards and deep brown-red falls with sharp and clearcut pale yellow edging.

This whole visit in Switzerland was marvelous; Dorothe's hospitality, her delightful family and fellow guest, Milan Blazek, all vastly enjoyable; the gardens, the irises, the people, the arrangements, in all respects pleasurable. There was only one flaw, as the words came to me when I was asked to speak to the company during the buffet luncheon at the Chateau, "It is such a memorable occasion that I have only one regret—that I am the only American here." That applies to all the events of the week.

MEETING PROGRAMS

The *Iris* events, meetings, feasts and lectures at G-80 were sponsored by the SILF, whose outgoing president, Oskar Stahel, presided at this convention. Oskar is familiar to American convention goers as is the SILF incoming president, Dorothe Schroeter. It was good to meet so many old friends of the European community, from France, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia and to make many new friends. It was a great disappointment to all that our Russian authority, Dr. George Rodionenko was unable to attend.

Dr. Robert Egli officiated at the lecture meetings, and delivered the introductory address, appropriately outlining the members of the *Iris* genus; his closing address was an equally appropriate plea for breeding and developing all kinds of irises. . . an effort being increasingly undertaken by members of the American Iris Society.

Dr. Rodionenko was to have spoken on "Expeditions to Irises in the Caucasus and Middle Asia," and everybody had looked forward to this with great anticipation. However, the rest of the speeches were most satisfying, with many excellent slides. The first speaker, Fritz Koehlein from Bayreuth, Germany, is a garden author of note. His volume on plant propagation is a perpetual best-seller in Germany. He spoke of irises in gardens, and since he grows more different plants in a compact home garden than anybody would dream could be possible, he knows how irises fit in with other plants.

The second day of lectures started with a discussion of the standard dwarf bearded on trial in Austria, by Franz Kurzman, director of the Median trials in Vienna. His showing was mostly of European varieties and was followed up by my slide showing of American varieties. We in America don't see enough of John Taylor's introductions in particular, but that should be corrected now that the AIS has honored him with its Hybridizing Medal this year. Unfortunately he also missed the G-80 meeting because he had been invited to speak at the Montreal Florales.

The SILF had printed a listing of the slides shown by Harald Mathes for his lecture on "Breeding Work with Aril Irises." It is a most impressive and comprehensive listing, and the young man has laid out for himself a remarkable program. His slides were excellent, most of them his own. We shall be hearing more from Mr. Mathes.

After lunch, Dr. Milan Blazek spoke about "The Growing of Irises in Czechoslovakia," and for this one an abstract in English was furnished. He spoke of the previous international symposium in his country in 1974,

of which he was Director, of the Iris species growing wild in Czechoslovakia, and of the development of garden irises there. His modesty forbade his explaining that he has been prime mover in their promotion since he was a boy, and is largely responsible for the present development and popularity.

Eckard Berlin then explained the work that he has been doing with beardless irises, particularly in inducing tetraploidy. His success with this includes the production of the tetraploid pseudacorus seen in the SILF garden on the lake.

After Dr. Egli's meaningful finale, the official meeting was concluded by an excellent banquet at which the speakers and worders were honored with gift books from the SILF, presented by outgoing President Stahel. We thank him, and congratulate the incoming president, Dorothe Schroeter.

1980 AIS VISITORS FROM ABROAD

In 1974 the AIS-sponsored tour "down under" included a visit to the Sunnydale Nurseries of the Blyth family in Australia, and the touring Americans were properly impressed with the work Barry Blyth was doing with irises. Especially interesting was work that had produced tangerine bearded pinks from the standard dwarf, MOONBLAZE, which is tan with pale blue fall centers. Since that time Barry and Lesley Blyth and their three children have established a new branch of the old nursery, called "Tempo Two", in dairy country 600 miles from Sidney. They show their irises in Melbourne, only 90 miles distant. Their new address is "Leongatha Road, Ellinbank via Warragul, Victoria." Barry tells me that the "Warragul" means Wild Dog.



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Interviewed at Tulsa in 1980, Barry further explained that the original nursery was founded by his great grandfather in 1890, and that the nursery has had a number of other specialties, but that he and his wife specialize in irises and daylilies. He estimated that they had registered about 50 irises, but an actual count of registrations in the 1970s reveals that Barry himself has registered more than twice that number, Lesley an additional half dozen, and their son Paul already has one to his credit, a black-red tall bearded called FINE PRECEDENT. I might add that somebody in the family is clever at dreaming up names!

OTHER CONVENTION GUESTS

We also interviewed delightful Mary Shepherd, but we can't do better than to quote the warm appreciation bestowed on her by the Iris Society of Australia in honoring her with a Fellowship. From the 1979 Yearbook of the Society:

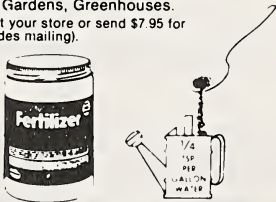
"Mary Shepherd has been involved with irises for too many years to record! Her personal friends have included many of the irisarians who were actively growing and hybridizing TBs before the formation of the Australian Iris Society. Despite the hard work of maintaining an extensive country property at Narromine, Mary somehow finds time to promote irises in country areas as well as bringing the best of her blooms several hundred kilometres to the Sidney Show. She has always been a great advocate of the established older varieties which have proven their worth in her garden, many of her best varieties are cultivars bred by Australian hybridizers many years ago and these have earned their place in her often unkind climate."

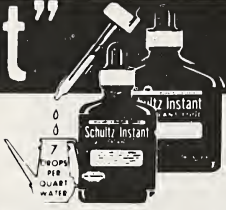
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Who was the third Australian present at the Tulsa convention? We sought her in vain . . . more anon, when she is identified!

As for the other international visitor, John Taylor of England, former President of the British Iris Society, he is the hybridizer who hit the jackpot by winning the British Dykes with his intermediate iris, COTSWOLD, and to whom the AIS gave the first reciprocal Hybridizers' Medal. His little speech of thanks for this was a heart-warming model of modesty and sincerity; and his presence at the convention was a rare pleasure for all who met him.

OBITUARY GUIDELINES

(Passed by the AIS Board of Directors, May 1, 1979)

"that obituaries be published in the AIS BULLETIN for those who at their death are AIS members and fit the following qualifications: all current and former AIS officers, directors, chairmen of standing committees and RVPs; all recipients of AIS service, hybridizer and special medals; all hybridizers who have originated AM or AM-equivalent winning irises; persons who have been signally honored by overseas iris societies; and hybridizers who have received top medals in international iris competitions; and that exceptional cases may be handled through specific requests to the Board of Directors by the BULLETIN Editorial Committee or directly by the Board of Directors"

In sending obituary information it would be most helpful if you would include the qualifying information set out above to Fred Stephenson, Domestic News Editor.

Mr. Walter Welch 1887—1980

Death claimed Walter Welch on January 11, 1980. Having spent most of his life in Middlebury, Indiana, failing health several years ago caused him to move to Texas to be near his son. At the time of his death he was 92.

Mr Welch was a noted breeder of Dwarf Irises. He was the organizer of the Dwarf Iris Society. He was also an artist and interior decorator. He started Round Robins and did much writing on iris subjects. He was awarded the AIS Hybridizers Medal in 1957 and the Foster Memorial Plaque in 1964. A number of his irises received the Caperne Award.

From the Region 6 Newsletter comes the following tribute by Frank Williams of Kalamazoo, Mich. "He lived and breathed dwarf iris, they were his great love—A love passed on to many. He was dedicated to dwarf iris as few are to any other iris. Yes, we shall miss him greatly, but his work will live on".



Jayne Ritchie

Young Alan Brooks, Jr., of Tacoma, Washington, may someday be telling us the effects of volcanic ash on iris growth and development. Stacy Huntley of Renton, Washington, may tell us about the marvelous seed germination she gets in her solar-heated greenhouse. Mary Anne McCarty of Kent, Washington, conserves fuel by riding her motorcycle to nearby communities to visit iris gardens. These youngsters and others like them are growing irises and **LIKING** it. Who do **YOU** know?

It's time to look around for possible candidates for the 1981 Youth Achievement Contest. Look for any youngster who:

- grows irises well
- has helped in a local club or in the region
- does some hybridizing
- visits iris gardens in the area
- competes in iris shows
- promotes irises and the AIS to others
- shows leadership in youth or club activities
- is an iris judge or is studying to be a judge.

If you know such a young person, he or she is a prime candidate and *should* be nominated. How do you go about nominating someone? I thought you'd never ask! The details follow.

Nominate Your Favorite for the Youth Achievement Annual Contest

1. Any AIS Youth Member under 19 years of age is eligible.
2. Any AIS member of any age may nominate a youngster.
3. Nominations should be as complete and detailed as possible in order to give the judges a basis for comparison.
4. Entries should be sent to the Youth Chairman, Jayne Ritchie, as soon as possible. All entries **MUST** be in by March 1, 1981.

5. Entries will be coded in order to disguise the identity of the youth, and judged by a panel consisting of one Youth Committee Member, one RVP and one other AIS member.
6. Entries will be judged on merit, entirely on the material submitted by the nominator.
7. All nominees will receive a letter of commendation. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. No one will be told who nominated them.
8. The first place winner will receive a suitably engraved trophy. The first and second runners-up will receive Award Certificates.

So, before you forget it, sit down and nominate some young person. Send all entries to:

Jayne Ritchie
1713 Camas Ave. N.E.
Renton, Washington, 98055

Be sure to include information about *all iris related activities*, as well as any other pertinent facts. Tell about such qualities as enthusiasm, energy, and initiative. We want to get to know our young irisarians.

Let us hear from YOU!



AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION, SIDNEY 1982

Australian Conventions are becoming more and more a popular central tourist attraction for Americans; in fact they have everything—wonderful people, superb hospitality and great irises in addition to their unique scenery, flora and fauna. They would be most happy to have American irises to guest for this convention, but as quarantine procedures are stringent, and charges for them high, they urge that plants be pooled for sending, as charges are per parcel of any size. All must be sent before March 1981, and they would appreciate having enough rhizomes of each variety or seedling to have grown in several gardens on the tours. Rhizomes and pertinent documents should be posted to:

Mr. Graeme Grosvenor
44 Wesson Road
West Pennant Hills,
NSW 2120, Australia

Editor's Notebook

With classic Murphy's Law form, a new challenge arose for the last issue! Almost two weeks after we thought it was winging its way to the membership, we were informed that our painstakingly created BULLETIN was still ornamenting the Nashville Post Office. If Williams Printing Company and our Managing Editor hadn't checked and acted, it might have been there much longer—when they are mailed, we seldom expect to hear of their arrival for some weeks. Anyway, they passed the word to our AIS Secretary that she must fill out another form (one we've never needed) before BULLETIN went anywhere! The secretary's efforts that followed were extensive, but finally... Thanks, Carol!

The previous (April) issue didn't reach some members at all. That was another strange saga. The company creating the labels for mailing had a machinery quirk that didn't apply enough glue; a portion of the labels eloped from their envelopes after mailing. Label-less mystery copies showered back to the Secretary's return address. Whose copies? We hadn't realized we needed an AIS psychic!

The moral of this story is that, if your BULLETIN doesn't arrive after an extended period of time, call the Editor (209) 952-3845 to hear our latest fascinating adventure. If others in your area have a new copy and you do not, within the same era, write to the AIS Librarian for another mailing. Our staff is diligent; Agnihotra Press (winner of recent national awards in their field) is super-cooperative; Williams Printing Company is doing a fine job: we are printing BULLETIN. Only the marvels of Murphy's Law can keep our magazine and our readers apart!

On a more personal note, the Editor, although continuing to edit, is retiring from the Board of Directors and, in reminiscing, feels that the occasion calls for comment. Serving on the Board is an expensive and very strenuous position: not so much as honor as a test of stamina and devotion. But serving on this Board has been an honor, because of the fine people and extraordinary leadership that made it a very special situation.

Both in Tulsa this year and on the President's Page this issue, Leon Wolford has been quick to praise the support of those around him. Carol Ramsey and many others certainly deserve it! On the other hand, we would be remiss if we didn't express our appreciation for the superb job that Leon Wolford has done as President of the American Iris Society.

For any members who have not had personal contact with him, let us explain. During his term of office, the Board has functioned smoothly and efficiently; the most intricate issues have been dealt with under the overriding concern of what is BEST for the organization and membership. Regional Vice-Presidents and members have been encouraged to attend and offer opinions, and this has been a great asset. Often the most strenuous sessions have had a tension-relieving touch of humor. The Board functioned as a cohesive unit: credit to Leon Wolford.

Getting to talk with the top officer of a national organization was easy for everyone when it was Leon. We called him by his first name, not from lack of respect, but because he insisted that everyone do so. He was approachable and listened to the opinions of every member. His smile is as real as the tall Texan who proved that Texans can be modest.

And we could happily devote several pages of praise to his wife, Edith. Gentle, efficient and conscientious Edith has been a paragon of "first ladies." Her sincere concern and twinkle of humor added so much. It would be hard to imagine a nicer person.

AIS has been blessed with many outstanding presidents, but Leon Wolford must rank very high among them. It has been a pleasure to work with him. The future looks great, and we will continue to hear from him. THANKS, LEON!

ADDITIONAL APPROVED AFFILIATES

Expiration Date July 1, 1981

Region 6 TRUMBULL COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Harold Cooper
Collar-Price Road
Brookfield, Ohio 44403

Region 20 ELMOHR IRIS SOCIETY

President: Col. M. R. McCarthy (USA Ret.)
4708 Constitution Avenue
Colorado Springs, Col. 80915

Region 21 SIOUX EMPIRE IRIS SOCIETY

President: Mr. Charles Hemmer
721 S. Walts Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

*We are proud!
We did not compete in the Olympics,
but Americans won in iris world competitions. . .*

Congratulations Due to American Iris Hybridizers!

Seven American hybridizers won glory at the prestigious Premio Firenze international iris competitions in Italy this year. Among them, they swept 15 of the 18 major awards.

Super congratulations go to Joseph Ghio for his 1980 triumphs. His Hybridizer's Medal, awarded at the Tulsa Convention in May, was superbly substantiated when MYSTIQUE won the latest Dykes Memorial Medal, as reported in this issue. These awards are part of the story. In addition, it has been announced that he won the Premio Firenze for ENTOURAGE, and his introduction DIGNITARY followed in second place. Another Ghio creation, INNER CIRCLE, received the Coppa Garden Club. This must be labelled a winning year for the California irisarian, to say the least!

An impressive total of six awards in the Italian contest went to hybridizer Keith Keppel. This award-collecting irisarian was recognized with FLAMENCO in third place, ACTRESS in seventh place, GENTLE RAIN in eighth place and FOCUS in tenth place. His irises garnered the Coppa della Regione, and FLAMENCO received an additional special award cup. Congratulations!

Frank Carr's QUEEN JUBILEE placed fifth and also won the Coppo Branch. ROJO ADVANCE, created by Les Peterson, finished sixth and garnered the Coppa Piaggio, as well. Joseph Gatty's PLAYGIRL came in ninth in the general competition for tall bearded irises, and CHARISMA, a border bearded by C. J. Blocher, collected the Premio Specht.

Winners from other nations included a numbered tall bearded seedling by Eva Hiemann which finished fourth. John Taylor of Great Britain received special awards for two border bearded varieties under number.

Mr. Herbert Graves 1924—1980

The Aril Society International reports in their latest newsletter, the death of Mr. Robert Graves on April 18, 1980 in Oberlin, Kansas. Mr. Graves was born May 12, 1924 and was best known for his Califa series of irises.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

April-June 1980

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Michelle McLaughlin, MI

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Mrs. Carl W. Hermann, SD

Mrs. Roxana Reecy, SD

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Schneider, SD

Miss Betty Swanson, SD

R. DEAN BRAND, JR.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Bonnell, OK

Mrs. Cleo J. Brantley, OK

Rebecca A. Bruner, OK

Mrs. L. P. Burton, OK

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Cox, OK

Hazel Daugherty, OK

Wilma Fryer, OK

Ellen Griffith, OK

Mrs. Stanley Grimes, OK

Joy Hathaway, OK

Verna Heisler, OK

Mrs. O. Jack Hickman, OK

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hill, OK

Mrs. Richard LeMay, OK

Mrs. David Olinghouse, OK

Frances E. Purkiss, OK

Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Raybourn, OK

Dawn Roberts, OK

Mrs. J. O. Schwemin, OK

Ken & Toni Rae Sminth, OK

Mrs. W. N. Thain, OK

Don & Carma Wilderson, OK

Henri F. Withington, OK

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Mrs. Colie Stoltz, TN

Mr. & Mrs. Dale H. Welch, TN

Virginia W. Wiggins, TN

MRS. RUBY BUCHANAN

Mr. & Mrs. Foster Davidson, NC

Mr. Bert Livingston, NC

Miss Michelle Nelson, NC

MRS. J. R. COLLINS

Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Cantrell, TN

Marsha Shackelford, TN

MRS. HILDA CRICK

Jean Minatra, TN

Amy Wright, TN

J. L. ENNENGA

Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Abbott, NE

Mr. & Mrs. Hoyt Lambert, NE

Mrs. Louis Sevek, NE

W. G. FRASS

Margaret Devault, OK

Mrs. Diane Goodwin, OK

Mrs. Opal M. H. Harris, OK

Mrs. Margaret Hildabrand, OK

Paula E. Shearon, OK

Karen S. Smardo, OK

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After the publication of THE WORLD OF IRISES in 1978 established a firm precedent to solve the perpetual debate, BULLETIN adopted the style in which "iris" is singular and "irises" is plural. Recently, Ben Hager commented on another unique irisarianism. Why do we sometimes describe an iris as having "gold standards and brown falls set off by an orange beard?" Unless strange mutations have occurred, there are three beards, one on each fall! Beards have to be plural, too, unless worn by a human. On iris descriptions, henceforth, we resolve to carefully describe BEARDS (3) on each flower!



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All advertising copy and photographs, except color which requires individual arrangements must be received by the Advertising Editor by April 15 (July Issue), July 15 (October Issue), October 15 (January Issue) and January 15 (April Issue.)

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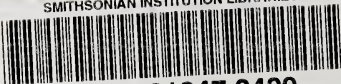
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